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HISTORY  
OF  
MEDINA COUNTY  
AND  
OHIO.

V. 2

*Containing a History of the State of Ohio, from its earliest settlement to the present time, embracing its topography, geological, physical and climatic features; its agricultural, stock-growing, railroad interests, etc.; a History of Medina County, giving an account of its aboriginal inhabitants, early settlement by the whites, pioneer incidents, its growth, its improvements, organization of the County, its judicial history, its business and industries, churches, schools, etc.; Biographical Sketches; Portraits of some of the Early Settlers and Prominent Men, etc., etc.*

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Accordingly, on the last day of December, 1816, Henry Hosmer, Chester Hosmer and Mary Y. Hosmer, brothers and sister, Shubael Porter and his sister, Abigail, Moses Noble and Lyman Munson, started with a two-horse team for Ohio. It being in midwinter, traveling was very tedious, as a matter of course, and yet, under all of the discouraging circumstances attending their enterprise, those brave boys and girls severed the ties that bound them to their friends and the scenes and associations of their earlier years and faced the darkness and dangers of the wilderness toward which they were traveling.

After having been upon the road about a month, they arrived at Wadsworth, within what is now Medina County, and stopped with Salmon Warner, who had settled there in 1815. On the 4th of February, 1817, leaving the girls at Wadsworth, the young men started to come to this place, but encamped upon the center road near the Hubbard Creek.

On the following morning, they came down the valley to where Seville now is. An Indian village, consisting of about a dozen lodges, occupied the south bank of the Hubbard, and one of these lodges they purchased, giving therefor two canisters of gunpowder. This lodge they fitted up for temporary use, and at once commenced building a log cabin on the creek bank, a few rods east of the present railroad track. As their axes were about the only tools they possessed, the building of their cabin progressed slowly, but, being finally completed, on the last day of February Chester Hosmer and Shubael Porter started for Wadsworth with the teams to bring over the girls and the household goods. On the morning of the 1st day of March, they accordingly started for their cabin, and, as they were crossing the River Styx, the weather having become much warmer, the ice broke, precipitating the horses into the water. Having succeeded in getting them out, and not knowing just how to proceed, Porter started for the cabin

for assistance, while Hosmer remained to guard the team and goods. The girls, becoming impatient, started on foot for the cabin, thinking it but a short distance, while they had, in fact, about six miles to walk.

On being informed by Porter of the sad state of affairs at the Styx, Henry Hosmer and Lyman Munson hurried away to Chester's assistance, and, when near the present center of Guilford, met the girls, tired, in tears and with their clothes loaded with snow and mud. After cheering them on their way, the young men pressed on to the scene of the disaster, and, on arriving there, proceeded to fell a tree across the stream, upon which they carried their goods across. One end of a long rope was then tied around the neck of a horse, and the other end carried across the stream, when, by a united pull and push, they succeeded in getting the animal into the water and over upon the other side. The same process was repeated upon the other horse, the sled dragged through, the goods reloaded and another start made for the cabin, where they arrived at 10 o'clock in the evening, the girls having arrived a few hours in advance of them, weary and discouraged.

Such was the arrival of those young people at the wilderness home of which they had talked and speculated in their New England homes. Not only was their arrival of a discouraging nature, for they soon found themselves in something of a dilemma, as the breaking-up of the ice had destroyed all means of egress from their settlement except on foot, and their provision chest needed replenishing, as they had brought but a small supply with them, intending, as soon as they were settled, to send to Canton for a fresh stock. Shubael Porter, having learned that some hunters had killed a bear some distance up Hubbard Creek, went up the valley, found the carcass, and carried a portion of it home, thus affording temporary relief. Henry Hosmer and Moses Noble then went to Wadsworth and there learned that one David



Slanker was erecting a mill some distance southwest of that place, and that some other families had gone on still farther west. They started for the new mill, which was on the land now owned by Mr. Hershey, and, on arriving there, learned that one William Doyle had gone into Milton, and that he had bridged the Styx on a line due west from that point. Following on, they soon reached the bridge and crossed over, but as the only visible trail led in a southerly direction, they started, without guide or compass, through the dense forest for home. Taking a northerly course and marking the trees as they proceeded, they at last reached the present cemetery hill east of Seville, and were then soon at home. They having thus marked the trees, all hands turned out next day and cleared a road through to Doyle's bridge, after which they felt that they once more had communication with the outside world. This road was very much used for several years, as all new settlers came in that way to this place, Westfield, etc., and all supplies were hauled over it. As soon as it was opened, Moses Noble started for Canton with the team for a supply of provisions. To make this trip, required about four days. As he was returning, he arrived at the Doyle bridge just as night came on, and, the darkness soon becoming so intense that he was unable to keep the road, he turned the horses loose, while he, wrapping himself in his blanket, crept under the wagon and composed himself for a night's rest. On the following morning, having found and harnessed the horses, which had strayed away some little distance, he took a new start and was soon at home, where he arrived in time for breakfast, and was greeted by the entire colony, the great joy evidently being occasioned both by his safe return and the sight of his precious load.

At that time there were several Indian villages in this vicinity, besides the one already referred to—there being one at Chippewa Lake, one on the land now owned by J. A. McCoy,

one on the Little Chippewa and one on the Killbuck. These villages each consisted of about a dozen lodges of Wyandots and Delawares. The Indians were all very friendly to the new settlers, and furnished them with all the meat they desired at a very low price. Though visiting the cabins quite often, they were never in any way uncivil. They would not approach a house until they had apprised the occupants of their presence, when they would strike their tomahawks into trees and advance unarmed, thus indicating their friendship. Henry and Chester Hosmer commenced chopping near where the business portion of Seville now stands, their clearings extending across the Hubbard and west to the Chippewa. Moses Noble commenced near where the lower mill now stands, and Shubael Porter a short distance therefrom in a southeasterly direction. As spring opened, the sun's warm rays fell unobstructedly upon many a spot that had never been reached by them before. An opening had been made in the forest that indicated the presence of the white man and the near approach of industry and civilization. The Indians stood, lazily looking on, sad at heart, no doubt, from seeing such havoc being made of the dear old woods where they had lived, fished and hunted, perhaps from their youth, and the wild animals, as they galloped over trails well known to them, stood upon the edge of the clearing, amazed at what they could not understand, and then, taking fright at the sound of the axes and falling timber, fled away to the depths of the still undisturbed wilderness. The fires were kindled in the brush and log-heaps, and fine oaks, poplars and black walnuts, that would now be of great value, were burned simply to get them out of the way and off of the land. The rubbish was cleared away, and of those fine trees, among whose branches the winds had played but a few weeks before, there remained nothing but the stumps. Many of these were very large, and so thickly did they





stand, that, under different circumstances, it would have seemed but of little use to cultivate the soil between them, but here the plow, harrow and hoe were introduced at once. Early in May, William H. Bell and Samuel Owen came to the settlement from the East. Mr. Owen remained but a few days, when he returned East. Shubael Porter did the first plowing, near the Chippewa Creek, south of the road leading to the lower mill. About fifteen acres in all were cleared and planted, and, when the warm days of June came on, the first corn, oats, potatoes, etc., that had ever shown signs of life in the Chippewa Valley, modestly peeped forth from the virgin soil. As soon as the planting was done, Henry Hosmer, Moses Noble and Mr. Bell started for their old homes in the East, Noble and Bell going for their families, and Hosmer for his father, William Hosmer, and his family. After spending the summer in the East, they started upon the return trip on the 22d day of the following September, and arrived at the new home in Ohio, after having been upon the road forty-five days. Chester Hosmer erected a large log house north of Hubbard Creek, on the site of A. G. Barnard's present residence, and thither the elder Hosmer removed with his family.

In October, 1816, two brothers, David and John Wilson, came from Bristol, Trumbull County, and located in the northeastern corner of Guilford, they having there found a place where considerable timber had blown down, and upon the roots of which were large quantities of soil which was to them a sure indication of great fertility. About the same time, William Moore commenced a clearing about one mile east of the Chippewa, on what is now known as the Jesse Smith place, now owned by Capt. Bates. Mr. Moore afterward settled in Westfield, where he lived until his death, which occurred in 1865. The Wilsons purchased land where they first settled, paying therefor \$4 per acre. They commenced work immediately, and

with their axes, their only tools, they erected a log cabin, ten feet long by six feet wide. They then cleared and logged about two acres of land, and hunted with the Indians for amusement. Having killed a great amount of game, they salted down quite a quantity of the meat in a trough made of a basswood log, and hung up the balance around the sides and roof of the cabin to dry. As winter was approaching and they were illy prepared to endure cold weather, they fastened up their cabin and returned to Bristol to await the opening of spring. During the succeeding winter, the wolves and bears were very troublesome, the former killing the sheep, and the latter the hogs and calves. Early in the spring of 1818, as Henry Hosmer went to the door of the cabin one morning, just after breakfast, he observed a deer in Hubbard Creek, not more than thirty feet distant from him. He says: "I had no gun, but had a very good dog. Upon seeing me, the deer immediately started away in a northerly direction, followed by the dog. Arriving at the brush fence that lay on the north side of the clearing, about where Washington street now is, I saw that the deer had stopped, and soon discovered, at a little distance, a large wolf that was evidently waiting for its approach. I endeavored to set the dog upon the wolf, but he evidently had too much discretion to obey. The deer then started east, and the wolf followed. I also started on in the same direction shortly afterward, and, after having gone up the creek about fifty rods, I found them at a short distance from me, and saw that the wolf had caught the deer, killed it, and was then engaged in sucking its blood. I thereupon frightened the wolf away, and secured the deer for myself. The wolf had evidently been in pursuit of the deer for some time, and it had gone into the water to avoid its foe." The Wilson brothers returned from Trumbull County as spring opened, and brought with them some provisions. Their flour they left with Mrs. Warner, of Wadsworth, who baked





their bread for them, they going for it once a week. But they were sorely disappointed when they found that in their absence the wild-cats had broken into their cabin and devoured all of their stock of meat except such pieces as were hung up beyond their reach. The woods were full of game, however, and bee-trees were numerous, and, as they were good marksmen, they soon had a supply of fresh meat and honey.

In May, they were cutting "shakes" with which to cover their house, and at noon, as they were going out to their work after dinner, in passing up through a rocky glen, David suddenly discovered a huge rattlesnake just in front of him. Being unused to such reptiles, he paused and called to his brother John "to come over to him, as there was a big snake there." John started upon a run, but before he got there, David discovered another and yet another of the reptiles lying about in the sun. Says Mr. Wilson: "John came running down the steep descent, and, before he was aware of it, he landed with both feet square upon one of those squirmers, and, with a profane expletive, he bounded into the air and sped onward, down the hillside, the snake flopping and squirming over and over and around John's feet, he giving it several unintentional kicks as they went. They finally landed at the bottom of the hill, both so thoroughly frightened that neither seemed disposed to hurt the other. In fact, we were both badly scared, but, after recovering from our fright, we killed, at that time, over thirty snakes, and, returning each day at about noon, when the reptiles were out sunning themselves, we killed, in all, over eighty rattlesnakes."

They continued their clearing, and, during the summer, built a new house, which was 22x18 feet. They soon formed the acquaintance of the young Eastern people who had located in the western part of the township, and often visited them. Philo French came in and settled near the Wilsons. Timothy Phelps made an opening just north of William Moore, and Will-

iam Walcott, where Nathaniel Gray now resides. Medina County was created, and, at the first meeting of the Commissioners, a petition was presented to them, asking for the opening of a road from Medina to the south line of the county. The petition was granted, and Chester Hosmer, William Walcott and James Cabow contracted to chop all trees along the line of the road that did not exceed six inches in diameter, clear away all fallen timber, build a bridge across each stream, and make more than one hundred rods of causeway, for \$100, the amount appropriated by the Commissioners for that purpose. This they accomplished, building log bridges over both the Chippewa and Hubbard Creeks, near, if not in the same places, where the iron bridges now are. At that time, Henry and Chester Hosmer were the owners of a large sow that had a fine litter of pigs. They kept almost a constant watch upon her, and were careful not to allow her to wander far from the cabin. But, in their absence one day, she went down the creek about forty rods and made a nest for herself and pigs. Here she soon had an unwelcome visitor. A large bear presented himself, killed the sow, carried her across the creek upon a large oak tree that had turned out of the bank by the roots, ascended the root, which was fully six feet high and about twelve feet from the bank, got the sow over and carried her about thirty rods, where he ate as much as he wished and then went away.

It seems that the Wilson brothers found their new-made friends very interesting. Such, we may judge, at least, of David, as he informed his brother John, one day, that "he had concluded to relieve him of the irksome duties of housekeeping." "Accordingly," says Mr. Wilson, "on the 18th day of December, 1818, Miss Abigail Porter and I were married. We were married at the house of Lyman Munson, who lived at Seville at that time. As Mrs. Munson, who was a sister of the prospective bride, was sick at the time, Abigail did the honors as



hostess herself. Brunswick, Medina, Wadsworth, Mogadore and Seville were fairly represented by wedding guests. After dinner had been served and the house put in order, the bride made her toilet, almost unaided. Her little dressing-room was partitioned off from the rest of the house by quilts. She wore a steel-colored silk dress, her hair in finger-puffs, and she looked charming." Esquire Warner, of Wadsworth, was the officiating officer, and, on the day following the wedding, Mr. Wilson took his wife home with him, they both riding upon one horse. They were the first couple of white people that were ever married in Guilford Township. Although Mr. Wilson had scarcely anything in the world, except some new land, his ax and a horse, yet this brave girl united her destinies with his, well knowing that if ever they had a comfortable home of their own, by their united toil they must make it. And this they did, though many were their discouragements, and in that home they lived happily together for almost half a century. They raised a family of intelligent children, several of the sons being at the present time distinguished professional men. Mrs. Wilson died in 1866. Mr. Wilson still lives, though very feeble, being almost ninety years of age. At one time, as Mrs. Wilson was alone in the house with her child, she heard the hogs coming at full speed from the woods, and, supposing that they were pursued, she seized a hoe and met them at a gap in the fence that surrounded the house. A large bear was close at their heels, and, as he came to the fence, she raised the hoe and struck upon the rails as hard as she could, and, at the same instant, screamed at the top of her voice. This halted Bruin, who stood and looked at her for a short time, when he turned and went away. Such a spirit of unflinching bravery as she there exhibited equals that of the Spartan mothers of old. When contemplating such events, the question is often asked, "What would the girls of to-day do were they to be placed in similar

circumstances?" and the question is usually answered by a significant smile. But he who searches the pages of history for recorded instances of the shrinking of American women from any duty, either in early or more recent times, even under the most perilous circumstances, will surely search in vain.

In 1819, Dr. John Smith settled near Wilson's Corners, and was for some time the only physician in the township. William H. Bell, who had been here in 1817, now came with his family, and settled just north of Seville, where Moses Shaw now lives. John and James Crawford settled farther north, where their descendants now reside. Samuel Owen also returned, and Jonas Stiles settled west of Seville. A son was born to William Walcott. This child was named William, and lived to be five years old, when it died from the effects of a cancer in the eye. This was the first white child born in the township. Guilford Township was organized this year and named, though reference has been made to it as such before, for convenience. At the first township election, John Wilson, William H. Bell and Lyman Munson were elected Trustees, and Jonas Stiles, Township Clerk. The following are the names of the voters at that election: John Smith, William H. Bell, Timothy Phelps, Samuel Owen, John Crawford, William Walcott, Jonas Stiles and John Wilson. Another wedding was celebrated, the contracting parties being Miss Jerusha Hosmer and Cyrus Chapman. This couple were married in Chester Hosmer's log house, north of Hubbard Creek. They settled in Harrisville. Henry Hosmer built a two-story, hewed-log house on the brink of the hill west of Chippewa Creek. This was by odds the most imposing edifice in the township. He also erected a small frame barn on the flats south of Seville, which was the first frame building erected in the township. The inconvenience and danger experienced for the want of a resident physician is well illustrated by





the following anecdote told by Henry Hosmer. He says: "Being the owner of the only horse in the little settlement, I always had the privilege of going for the doctor, when he was required, and this seemed invariably to occur in the night. In the fall of 1819, at about 11 o'clock at night, I was aroused from my slumbers by a loud rap at the door, and was informed that the doctor was wanted, and that I must make all possible haste. I proceeded to arrange a torch, mounted my horse and started for Dr. Smith. The wolves soon began to howl around me, and my torch was rather dim, which made them still bolder. When I had gone some two miles, I was obliged to renew my torch, and, while hunting around for a hickory tree from which to obtain bark, the light of my first torch went out, leaving me in almost total darkness. The wolves at once became perfectly silent, but I could tell that they were tramping in a circle around me, as I could see the glare of their eyeballs and hear the snapping of their teeth. Having found some bark, I raised a light and remounted. All was still for a moment, when they sent forth a tremendous howl, as if disappointed at being cheated out of their anticipated meat of human and horse flesh. My horse was terribly frightened, and the same sensation came over me to an alarming extent. I made the trip in safety, however, and returned with the doctor at 3 o'clock in the morning."

In 1820, the following additions were made to the inhabitants already here: Jacob Munson, Jotham Curtis, John Bell, Nathan Scranton and Jonathan Nye. An election for a Justice of the Peace was held on the 20th of May, at which time it was found, upon counting the ballots, that John Smith had received six votes, Timothy Phelps two votes, and John Crawford one vote, whereupon Smith was declared elected. Henry Hosmer and Lucy Hays were married at the residence of Dr. Hiram Williams, in Avon, Lorain County. Mr. Hos-

mer brought his bride home on horseback, after the new-country style, but, on their return here, quite in the fashion of nowadays, they took a wedding trip East, where they remained through the winter. Jonas Stiles and Maria Owen were also married. A State road was laid out from Wooster to Cleveland, over nearly the same ground occupied by the county road previously mentioned. The State made liberal appropriations for improving it, and private individuals contributed freely for the same purpose. The new-comers in 1821 were James Bell, Robert Wilson, Lewis Wilson, Moses Shaw, H. N. Pool, Jacob Van Vleet and Chauncey Barker. Moses Shaw is still living. Chauncey Barker opened the first dry goods store, in a log building on the hill west of the Chippewa, and upon the site now occupied by Michael Deven's dwelling. The store was an addition upon the west end of the building, the main part being occupied by Barker as a dwelling. The enterprise soon proved a failure, as the inhabitants at that time manufactured their own clothes from wool and flax, made their sugar from the fine maple groves that surrounded them, and, as money was very scarce and produce very cheap, trade was so light that the venturesome merchant bade adieu to the woods and returned East. At Wilson's Corners, John Wilson erected a grist-mill, his motive power for which was a yoke of oxen, placed upon a large horizontal wheel some fifteen feet in diameter, and inclined so as to constitute a tread-power. This was the first mill of any kind erected in the township, and with it he ground the grists for a large community for several years. A schoolhouse was also erected this year, upon the west side of the road, and near where the flax-mill now stands. It was simply a log cabin, with a chimney of clay and sticks at one end, a clapboard roof, the boards of which were held on by weight-poles; puncheon furniture and floor, two small greased-paper windows, and a clapboard door





that swung on huge wooden hinges. The first summer school was taught by Miss Adeline Derthick, and the first winter term by Mr. John Bell. Jacob and James A. Bell, Josiah, William and James Crawford, Levi Nye and Amer and Jacob Moore were among the pupils who improved the means there furnished them for obtaining an education. These boys all grew to manhood and occupied farms in Guilford Township. James A. Bell, for two consecutive terms, represented Medina County in the State Legislature, and was for the same length of time State Senator from the district composed of Richland, Ashland, Lorain and Medina Counties. He now resides with his daughter at Anamosa, Iowa. Jacob Bell advanced from the rude benches of the pioneer schoolhouse to college at Hudson, where he received a liberal education. He engaged in teaching and farming for several years, and, at one time, was interested in a carriage manufactory. He now resides in Missouri. A debating society was organized, and therein many questions were handled in a manner that would do credit to the young men of the present day.

A little "hunt" was engaged in this year, also, as the following anecdote, related by Henry Hosmer, will show. He says: "In the fall of 1821, Mr. S. Barrett went out in a northerly direction from our little settlement, in quest of his cows; when about half a mile out, his dogs treed two bears, a female and her cub. He well knew that, should he leave the tree, the bears would come down and escape; he therefore commenced hallooing at the top of his voice, which soon brought a Mr. Harney to his assistance. One then remained at the tree while the other went for help. A. Forbes, C. Hosmer and myself went willingly to the scene of action. When we arrived at the tree, it had grown so dark that we were unable to see the game. We then built large fires around the tree in hopes that we would be able to shoot

them by fire-light. The bears, however, were too shrewd for that, as they kept constantly secreting themselves among the thick branches; so we were compelled to wait until daylight, when Forbes soon shot them off, and, upon looking a little farther into the tree-top, a large raccoon was discovered, and he was also brought down by Forbes. Guided by the report of our gun, a party of coon-hunters now came to us, who, like ourselves, had been out all night. They had three coons and a large wild-cat, so, altogether, we formed a triumphal procession and came into town with two bears, four coons and a wild-cat, a pretty good haul for one night." There also occurred, this year, a sad death, that caused a gloom to rest upon the entire settlement. Mr. Elijah Porter started in the month of November, from the residence of his son, Shubael Porter, who lived a short distance south of Seville, to go to Medina on business connected with his pension, which he was then receiving from the United States Government, as a discharged Revolutionary soldier. He went on foot to Wilson's Corners, where he obtained a horse from his son-in-law, David Wilson, and with it started through the woods for Medina. Late at night the horse returned without a rider, and some blood was upon the stirrup. Mr. Wilson and the neighbors at once set out in search of him, with lanterns, and finally found him in what was called the "four miles woods," near the center of Montville, sitting at the foot of a beech-tree, so chilled that he could scarcely speak. He had taken off one of his boots, and it was nearly filled with blood. A deep wound was upon his leg, which had the appearance of having been caused by a snag or root. They placed him upon a horse to take him to Medina; but, when they had proceeded but a short distance, he waved his hand as if for them to stop, and immediately expired. With heavy hearts, they then returned home. He was buried near David Wilson's residence, and was the first white



man buried in Guilford Township. A militia company was formed during the same year, it requiring all male persons of the required age, in Harrisville, Westfield and Guilford Townships, to make up the requisite number of officers and privates. In 1822, the following new settlers came into Guilford: David Clute, Oliver Houghton, Ambrose Houghton, James Harkness, Judah Dodge, Asabel Parmenter, Miles McCabe and Drs. John and Chapin Harris. The one last named remained here but a short time, when he went to Baltimore. Dr. John Harris settled in Seville, and was the second practicing physician in the township. Miles McCabe purchased land in the eastern part of the township. Ambrose Houghton settled south of Seville, on the State road. He died in December, 1880, at the age of ninety-one years. The wolves being more troublesome this year than usual, the State offered a bounty of \$5 for each one killed. The county offered about the same, and individuals enough in addition, so that in all a wolf's scalp was worth about \$12. Mr. Alexander Forbes, an old hunter and trapper, commenced at once and soon captured about twenty. He used a large steel trap, to which he fastened a piece of wood about as large as a wolf could move. He dare not fasten the trap permanently, as the wolf, when caught, would proceed to amputate the confined foot and escape. He trapped one, at last, so large and strong that he deliberately walked away with both trap and log. There was a light snow upon the ground at the time, and they tracked him about two miles east, to the summit of Chestnut Ridge; thence northerly nearly to the north line of Montville; thence east half a mile, thence south nearly to the south line of Guilford, where they came up with him; and, notwithstanding they had several dogs and guns, they did not succeed in killing him until he became entangled in the top of a fallen tree, as he would fight off the dogs and keep out of range of the guns. This

was pronounced to be much the largest wolf that had ever been seen by any of the party.

During the same year, John Coolman, who lived at that time about four miles southeast of Seville, on what is now known as the McDermott farm, prepared to build a large double log barn. When he had his timber upon the ground, he invited all hands from Milton, Wadsworth, Guilford and Westfield, as it required all the men then in those townships to accomplish the task before them. Mr. Coolman offered a gallon of whisky to those who should be first upon the grounds in the morning. Judge Henry Hosmer, in relating the anecdote, says: "We left home at about 1 o'clock in the morning with our axes and torch. Arriving at Coolman's at about 2 o'clock, we woke him up, got the promised whisky, took a drink all around, and lay down by the fire for a little sleep. Just before daylight, Jacob Knupp and others arrived from Milton, and called upon Coolman for the whisky. They were sorely disappointed when he informed them that the Yankees had beaten them by several hours. So, to mend matters, we again took a drink all around, and commenced work immediately after breakfast. Coolman selected Marshall, of Westfield, and Knupp, of Milton, for captains, and said he meant to determine who were the best men, the Dutch or the Yankees. Each party took an "end," as we termed it, and long before night we had the barn up and all left for home without the slightest accident or difficulty. I never saw men work as they did upon that occasion. It was a continued strife throughout the entire day, and the best of feeling prevailed."

People were often lost in the woods, even the most experienced hunters occasionally losing their way, and being obliged to remain out in the woods overnight. Upon one occasion, Mr. William H. Bell, upon a stormy evening, went into the woods as usual to find his cows. Not finding them readily, it became very dark,





and, becoming confused, he was unable to find his way home, and so he sat down by the side of a tree and remained there until morning. At another time, Mrs. Deborah Scranton, mother of Luther Scranton, was lost in the woods, and was found at about midnight, by the neighbors who were searching for her. As it was a cold, stormy night in November, she would probably have perished with cold before morning. When found, she had her dress pulled over her head to keep her ears warm, was sitting quietly upon a log, and, although the wolves were howling around her, she said "she had no fear, except that perhaps she might not be found." Wild hogs were numerous in the woods, and persons often went out with kettles and other fixtures for dressing them, and killed as many as they desired for their own use, and, oftentimes, some for market. In 1823, Apollos Dean, Noah Hatch, William Wilson and J. A. Johnson came in and settled, and, from that period, settlers came in rapidly, and all new lands were soon taken up. During this year, Henry Hosmer put up and burned a brick-kiln on the flats south of Seville. These were the first bricks manufactured in the township. Henry Hosmer was elected Justice of the Peace, and the log schoolhouse, previously described, was burned down, and with it were consumed nearly all of the school-books in the western portion of the township. During the same summer another, very similar in material and architectural design, was erected upon the south side of Hubbard Creek, on the ground now occupied by J. K. Caughey's dry goods store. Miss Emeline Forbes, who afterward became Mrs. Chester Hosmer, taught the first term of summer school in the new house, and Mr. Nathaniel Bell, the succeeding winter term.

David Clute commenced keeping "tavern" in a log building that stood upon the hill west of Chippewa Creek, and a few rods east of the one where Barker had previously opened a store. This was the first hotel, and the only one of

which the people of Guilford could boast for the succeeding four years. Previous to this, the inhabitants had all kept hotel, so far that strangers and travelers were never turned away, but always received with cordiality, and treated in the most hospitable manner possible under existing circumstances. Abel Lindsley settled at the center of Guilford, and John Cannon on the Center road, upon the farm now owned by Hon. J. C. Johnson; Nehemiah Abbott, at Dorsey's Corners, on lands now owned by L. W. Strong, Jr., and Henry Earle built a log house upon the farm now owned and occupied by Rev. Varnum Noyes.

In 1824, several new settlers came into the southeast quarter, among whom were John Halliwell, George Coolman, Valentine Riggleman, Samuel Wideman and Charles Heckathorne. David Halliwell and Rufus Thayer settled in the southwest quarter. Thomas Hayes erected a water-wheel and turning-lathe on Fall Creek where it crosses the north-and-south center road, near the residence of Jacob Smith. The dense forest surrounded him on all sides; and, from the fine trees that then grew upon those hills, he selected the timber from which he turned wooden bowls, churns and truncheons, the latter being a kind of wooden bottles. These articles were all very useful to the inhabitants and met with a quick sale, as crockery was rather scarce and costly.

A schoolhouse was built at Wilson's Corners, being the third one in the township. Maj. Aaron Leland came in from the State of New York, and settled south of Seville.

The cemetery east of Seville was surveyed, and conveyed by deed to the township for burial purposes. It is known at present as "Mound Hill Cemetery." The grounds ascend gradually from the road, north, to the mound from which the cemetery takes its name. When or by whom this mound was built, of course is not known; but there it is, and a most beautiful spot, from the summit of which a fine view of the surround-



ing country and of the village below may be had. For many years it was only an ordinary country graveyard, with nothing about it to attract attention except its natural beauty. A few years since, however, the authorities of Seville added several acres to it by purchase, had the grounds regularly laid out into lots, walks and drives, the drives graded and the whole inclosed by a hedge, with appropriate gates. Two rows of evergreen hedge surrounded the mound, which adds very much to its appearance. The citizens and others, whose friends are buried there, take great pains in grading and decorating their lots, and many fine and costly monuments have been erected there. Mrs. Harriet Wilson, wife of Robert Wilson, died on the 9th day of June, 1824, and was the first person buried there, and the first adult who died in the Seville settlement. Mrs. Margaret Wilson, wife of John Wilson, at Wilson's Corners, died during the same year, and was buried near David Wilson's house, she being the second person interred there.

In 1825, a mail route was established between New Haven, in Huron County, and New Portage, in Portage County. The route lay through Seville, and William Hosmer was the first Postmaster, having his office in Chester's log house, north of Hubbard Creek. Postage, at that time, was paid when the mail matter was delivered, and the rates were as follows: For five hundred miles or over, the postage on a letter was 25 cents; for three hundred miles, 18 cents; and for any distance less than three hundred miles, 10 cents. The date of the first mail arrival of which there is a record, is January 1, 1826, when there was a letter for Henry Hosmer, and two newspapers. The latter were undoubtedly addressed to some person or persons, but for whom, the record does not state. A few of the succeeding entries in Mr. Hosmer's record are as follows: January 8, Sunday—Continues cloudy and misty; snow gone; wind south; mail arrived; brought one letter

to Nathaniel Bell, and three newspapers. Sunday, January 15—Wind southwest; stormy, with snow; mail arrived; brought two newspapers; sent away one letter to Manchester, Hartford Co., Conn. Monday, 18th—Cold, southwest wind; flying clouds; Mr. Clute lost his watch Thursday. Monday, 23d—Chilly, southwest wind; cloudy, sour weather; a little snow. Sunday, February 19—Wind east; clear and pleasant; Elder Freeman preaches; mail arrived; three letters, one newspaper. 22d, Wednesday—Henry's calf lost; Hills caught a beaver. 23d—Southwest wind, hazy, Hills' wife sold the beaver skin to a peddler. Friday, June 9—Bought of Mr. Gillett five and one-half yards of calico, at 41 cents per yard. Sunday, 11th—Mail arrived; one letter and sixteen newspapers. Sunday, July 26—Mail arrived; one letter and twelve newspapers; Shubael Porter's fence is on fire; sent \$3 to pay for the *Religious Enquirer*, to Hartford, Conn. Such entries as these appear, from the records, to have been made daily for several years.

During the year 1826, David D. Dowd, E. W. Harris, Joseph Ross and Dr. L. Stewart came in from the East and settled here. As the water-power at Hayes' turning-lathe on Fall Creek seemed to invite some greater enterprise, Henry Hosmer and Nathaniel Bell purchased the site and erected a saw-mill thereon. This mill was owned and operated by different parties until 1847, when it was torn down. A frame school-house stood for many years on the hill just north of this mill, and was removed at about the same time. There is nothing left there now that would indicate the fact that either had ever been there. Some time previous to this a Methodist society had been organized at Wilson's Corners, with David Wilson as Class-leader. During this year another was organized at Guilford Center, with Reuben Case as Class-leader. Circuit-riders preached there once in two weeks. William H. Bell was elected Jus-





tice of the Peace, and Shubael Porter Constable. Mr. John Cook, who had but just come from the East, died and was buried in the new cemetery, being the first man that was buried there. In 1827, Henry Hosmer built a large frame barn. This was the most marked improvement in the matter of buildings that had ever been made in the settlement. The people apparently became more patriotic this season than usual, and determined to celebrate the 4th of July. Accordingly, when the day arrived, the inhabitants of the town and vicinity gathered together in a grove, and Elder Rufus Freeman delivered an oration. Mr. David Clute prepared the dinner for the occasion, and around his rude table, upon that anniversary of the day of which all Americans are proud, this jolly company of hardy pioneers gathered to partake of such delicacies as their host had at his command. The Elder Freeman referred to was the father of Elder Rufus Freeman, who recently lived in Westfield, and grandfather of Joseph Freeman. The "old Elder," as he is often termed, was a Revolutionary soldier.

Prominent among the new-comers of this season was Dr. Nathaniel Eastman, who came from Wadsworth, where he had been staying for some time. On the 16th day of December of the same year, he erected a sign and opened a hotel in the large log house upon the west bank of the Chippewa, erected by Henry Hosmer in 1819. Here he carried on, unitedly, the two callings of landlord and practicing physician until 1830, when he erected a hewed-log house of his own upon the north side of the road, nearly opposite from where he then was. This house he occupied for four years, when he erected the large frame building just east from it upon the west bank of the creek. Here he continued to offer refreshment and rest to the weary traveler for several years, when he took charge of the American House, and, after holding forth there for a short time as "mine host," he turned his whole attention to the practice of

medicine. He was one of the most active of the early settlers, and was something of an inventive genius. During these early years, he constructed a steam wagon, somewhat similar in appearance to the present portable engines. Though much skill was displayed in its construction, it was found upon its completion that the proper application of the motive power had not been made, and failure crowned his first effort to make it move its own weight. Several yoke of oxen were then attached to it, and it was hauled out upon the hill west of Chippewa Creek, where the little park now is, and there left. And for several years it stood there an object of wonderment to travelers and a plaything for boys. The doctor was a regularly educated physician, was a surgeon in connection with Commodore Perry's fleet, and at the noted battle upon Lake Erie on the 10th of September, 1813. He was quite a public speaker, and frequently lectured upon the subjects of temperance and medicine. When the civil war broke out in 1861, he often entertained closely listening crowds with army narrations, and descriptions of soldier life, those being subjects in which all were interested in those days. He died August 15, 1861. Both of the houses erected by him on the west side of the creek are still standing, and are occupied as dwelling-houses. A post office was established at River Styx, with David Wilson as Postmaster.

In 1828, a mail route was established from Cleveland to Columbus, over which the mail was carried on horseback for a short time, when Jarvis, Pike & Co., of Columbus, established a line of stages over the entire route. The first stage-coach arrived in Seville from Columbus on the 5th day of April. The snow was about four inches deep upon the ground at the time, and, as the roads were quite bad, the new "enterprise" came leisurely into town, where it was hailed by shouts from a large crowd of enthusiastic observers. James Crawford, Jr., soon became a driver of one of these





coaches, and, as he was driving from Medina to Seville, near where Fritz's steam saw-mill now is, in June of this year, he was overtaken in the midst of the woods by a heavy shower of wind and rain which blew down a large tree near him, killing three of his horses. Six passengers who were in the coach, the driver and one horse, escaped injury. James Elliott erected a frame house a short distance west of Judge Hosmer's. In this he opened a dry goods store; but, failing in a short time, engaged in shoe-making. This house is still standing just west of A. P. Beach's residence. Seville Village was laid out on land belonging to Henry Hosmer, and surveyed and platted by Nathaniel Bell, who was County Surveyor at that time. It was named Seville after a city in Spain. Although reference has previously been made to it in these pages by that name, it was known simply as the "Burgh" before this time. In 1829, Smith & Owen opened a dry goods store in a small building on the south side of the road just west of the creek where J. C. Boice's residence now stands. As their business soon necessitated their having more room, this building was moved up on to the hill, where it now forms a part of A. P. Beach's residence, and a large one was erected on the site from which it was removed by the same parties. This building was occupied as a dry goods store by different parties until about 1855, when it was removed to the east side of the creek by Mr. John Harris, who sold goods in it until about 1861. Louis Leon, now of Cleveland, then occupied it for a year or two, when it was taken by J. C. Hamsher. The firm of Hamsher, Hay & Co., was then formed, the old building rebuilt and made into a very nice room. Kuder Brothers bought out this firm in 1868. George D. McCoy now owns and occupies it for a grocery store. A frame school-house was built on a lot donated for the purpose by Chester Hosmer, it being a part of the present vacant space west of the upper mill.

Shortly after this, Henry Earle and Sylvanus Thayer started a blacksmith-shop in the old log schoolhouse on the corner, and there the inhabitants had their horses shod, their chains, hoes, shovels, tongs, plows, harrows, etc., made and repaired for several years. A daily line of stages was now running, and frequently extras, as this route had become the thoroughfare to the South and West, and there was a vast amount of travel over the road for those days.

In 1830, Henry Hosmer, Chester Hosmer and Aaron Leland erected a saw-mill upon the north side of Hubbard Creek, in the village of Seville. A dam was built about half a mile up the stream, which flowed the water back toward the center road; from this pond, the water was conducted by a race to the mill below. Near the mill was quite a large basin, which, when filled with water and frozen over, formed a very fine place for skating, and, at almost any time when the ice was sufficiently strong, a score or more of boys and girls, and oftentimes many grown people, were to be seen there, with skates and sleds, enjoying the sport. At that time, Hubbard Creek afforded sufficient water with which to run the mills upon it about nine months in each year.

During the fall of this year, the stage broke down, in coming from Medina to Seville, when near the Cook farm, and the driver was obliged to leave it and take the mail-bags upon the horses. Soon after he had gone, Henry Hosmer and his wife, and Nathaniel, Margaret and Martha Bell, who had been to Medina in a lumber-wagon and were returning, found the stage standing where it had been left, and, for sport, took off the broken wheel, put one of their wagon-wheels on in its place, and transferred their horses from the wagon to the stage. The ladies then got inside the coach, and the men mounted the box. Hosmer did the driving, and Bell blew the horn. As they drove into town, the continued tooting roused the people, who, having seen the driver pass through on horse-



back, knew not what was coming. They accordingly turned out en masse, many without hats, headed by Dr. Eastman, who kept the stage tavern, and, when the point of the joke was discovered, and the strange occurrence understood, a merry time ensued.

The old Methodist meeting-house that used to stand west of Seville, where Mrs. Mary Cook's house now stands, was erected during this year.

In 1831, John Martin, an Englishman, just over from England, came in and settled north of Seville. This was an event of some importance at that time, as he was the first and only foreigner then in the settlement.

The present Rebman House was built this year by Lovell Redway. It was erected simply for a dwelling-house, and was used as such until about the year 1860, when it was purchased by I. S. Towers, who rebuilt it and opened it up as a hotel.

In 1832, David D. Dowd built the house upon the north side of Hubbard Creek, where George Porter now lives. Henry Hosmer erected the large frame house which he still occupies. J. S. Fisk built a large store building just west of the present little park, and south of John Hayes' present residence. It was the intention of the citizens at that time to have the business portion of the village upon that hill, and this building was occupied as a store until the flats upon the other side of the creek became the business center, when it was abandoned, for that purpose, and was removed many years after, by James Sickner, to the south side of the road, and rebuilt for a dwelling-house. It is now owned and occupied by Jacob Scomp. During this year, J. M. Cole started a rake factory about two miles southwest from Wilson's Corners. In 1833, Parsons and Butler erected the large building, a part of which is now occupied by John Hayes, as a dwelling-house, also west of the park, and started a cabinet-shop therein. This

business also becoming unprofitable in that locality, the building was made over and has since been used as a dwelling. During this year, also, E. W. Harris built the large frame house north of Hubbard Creek, where Dr. Platt E. Beach now lives, and Michael Devin opened a dry goods store in a log building that stood where his present residence now stands. The main part of the American House was built by James Elder and Elisha Young. The additions upon the east side of it were made by D. D. Dowd, about the year 1851. It is now owned and occupied as a hotel by Christian Roth. No important improvements were made in Seville, during the year 1834, except those made by Dr. Eastman, and previously noticed. At Wilson's Corners, Slutter & Overholt built the frame building, which is still standing upon the southeast corner, and occupied the same as a storeroom. It is now owned by Hon. A. D. Lacey, who occupies one of the rooms as an office. Aaron Leland and Nathaniel Bell built a saw-mill on the Chippewa Creek, one mile south of the village of Seville. They continued in partnership for two years, when Leland purchased Bell's interest. John B. Leland succeeded his father in the ownership of the mill, and operated it until the spring of 1850, when he went to California. It then changed hands several times within a few years, being owned by H. H. Hay, Dailey & Graves, D. F. Soliday and James McElroy. Mr. Soliday was killed there on the 3d day of May, 1862. He had been hurt the day previous by a stick, which was thrown back by a buzz-saw, striking him in the stomach. He was troubled with dizziness through the succeeding night and during the next forenoon. On going out from dinner, he remarked to his wife, that "he expected the mill would kill him some day,"—a remark that would not have been remembered but for what followed. His little boy, on going out to the mill a short time afterward, was unable to find his father, and, on returning to the





house, so informed his mother. A Miss Jones then went to the mill, which was still running, and, after searching for some time, discovered Mr. Soliday upon a horizontal shaft in the lower part of the mill. Not understanding how to stop the mill, she ran screaming toward the nearest neighbors. Her cries soon brought some men to her assistance, who stopped the mill, and, on going below, beheld a most sickening sight. The body of the unfortunate man, entirely naked, was hanging upon the shaft, his vest and overshirt having slipped up around his neck, were wound around the shaft in such a manner as to draw his throat tightly against it, which caused him to revolve with the shaft, which made, at least, twenty revolutions per minute. How long he had been upon the shaft, and whether he died suddenly or suffered long, of course will never be known. He was probably engaged in placing a belt upon a pulley when the accident happened, and, as his shirt-sleeve was the last thing to unwind from the shaft, it probably caught first. He was a strong, resolute man, and had passed through many hardships, having gone to California by the overland route during the early days of the gold excitement there. After his death, the mill soon went to decay, and was finally purchased by C. W. Hay, of Seville, and by him torn down. At the time of its removal, the lower rim of a large cast-iron water-wheel was left deeply imbedded in the mud. Some person may find this, ages hence, and wonder what machinery was ever operated there. A tannery was started near Dorsey's Corners, by J. P. Smith, about this time. He was succeeded therein by Thomas Hunt, and he by Charles Wright, who died there a few years since. There was also a blacksmith-shop upon the opposite corner in a very early day, which was burned down about 1827.

The only notable event that occurred in 1835 was the construction of the locomotive, previously described, by Dr. Eastman, Henry Lane and Stephen C. Smith. In 1836, Dr.

Eastman took charge of the American House as landlord. Jeremiah Wilcox purchased Chester Hosmer's farm, north of Hubbard Creek, for \$4,000. The village of Seville was platted, and the lots numbered from 1 to 214. William Hosmer resigned the office of Postmaster in favor of Frederic Butler. Peter King commenced to build a grist-mill on the site now occupied by the Lower Mill. In 1837, Mr. King finished his grist-mill, and relieved the inhabitants from taking the long journeys to mill which they had been accustomed to previous to this time. This was the first grist-mill in Guilford, except the small one at River Styx, previously noticed. Mr. King's mill did the grinding for a community extending several miles in all directions. It was taken down about the year 1849 by Aaron Leland and C. W. Hay, which firm erected the present Lower Mill, now owned and operated by Peton & Colbetzer.

In 1837, John Geisinger built a saw-mill about three miles northeast from Seville. He kept a loom in his mill, and, while the saw was running through a log, he occupied the time in weaving cloth. He had no arrangement for gigging the carriage back except to tread it back with his foot, which was both slow and tiresome, and yet he operated this mill for many years and did a great amount of sawing with it.

There was a vast amount of travel over the turnpike at this time, as all of the travelers wishing to go from the lakes southward passed through on this road. Each day, a heavily loaded four-horse coach passed each way, and many times one or two extras, besides numerous private traveling carriages. All goods going south to Jackson, Wooster and other towns farther on down the road, were carried in wagons, many of which were of the large Pennsylvania pattern, and were drawn by four or six horses. The coming-in of the stage then caused more excitement than the com-



ing-in of a railroad train does now. And no railroad conductor, and scarcely any railroad President, is half so proud, or is looked upon with half of the admiration that was bestowed upon the old-time stage-coach driver as he thundered into town, blowing his bugle and flourishing his whip over the prancing and foaming steeds which he handled with so much skill. And the average boy who beheld those things could think of but two things really to be desired in the future, and those were to be a militia Captain upon general training days and a stage-driver the balance of the year. About this time, E. W. Harris built a tannery on the same site that the present one stands upon, north of Hubbard Creek. He also erected a shoeshop upon the same side of the creek, but farther west. This was afterward moved across the creek, and is now occupied by J. D. Edwards as a tinshop. William H. Alden built the corner block, now occupied by C. A. Stebbins, in 1836. In this he sold dry goods until he was elected Sheriff of Medina County, in 1840, when he removed to Medina, where he still resides. In 1839, William Hosmer died, at the advanced age of ninety-nine years.

Lyman W. Strong came from Strongsville in 1840, and engaged in the sale of dry goods in the large building previously described, upon the west bank of the Chippewa. He afterward occupied the present bakery room for the same purpose until 1850, when he built the corner block now owned and occupied as a store by John B. Leland. He was quite extensively engaged in the mercantile business for several years. He also carried on an ashery for some time, and here the farmers for miles around found a market for their ashes, which they gladly sold for 10 cents per bushel, and took "store pay." Mr. Strong is still living, and he has always been one of the substantial citizens of Seville, and always prominently connected with all desirable improvements and reforms. The large frame house near the Up-

per Mill was built by D. D. Dowd about the year 1842, and was occupied by him for several years as a "Temperance Hotel," which was something of a novelty in those days, and an enterprise in which but few men would have risked very much capital. Mr. Dowd, however, by his pluck and energy made it a success. The second house north from that was built by Thomas Wilcox when the village was first laid out. The southwest corner building, now owned and occupied by J. K. Caughey as a dry goods store, was erected by Chauncey Spear, in 1843. He there engaged in the sale of dry goods for several years, and the building has ever since been used for that purpose, when it has been occupied at all, which has been almost continually, although by several different parties. Mr. Spear is still living, and is one of the few of the early settlers yet remaining with us. He is now a Justice of the Peace, which office he has held for several successive terms. He has also been Mayor of Seville. The Masonic Block was erected in 1844, by G. W. Morgan, Dr. Witter and the Masonic Lodge. Mr. Morgan was Judge Hosmer's son-in-law. He owned the lower or ground story, Dr. Witter the second, and the Masons the upper story, which is still occupied by that order. The building now used as a planing-mill by Stoaks & Barnard was erected about the same time, and was used for many years as a carding and spinning woolen factory by E. C. Benton. When, however, the people adopted the practice of selling their wool and buying their cloths, he found his "occupation gone," and soon engaged in other business. At Wilson's Corners, there having been several cases of grave-robbing, the citizens constructed quite a large receiving vault in their little cemetery a short distance south from the village. This vault is still in good condition, and is the only one of the kind in Guilford Township. At about the same time, Jacob Leatheram opened a hotel on the center





road, east of the center, in the large house now standing across the road from Robert Null's residence. Thomas Heath also started one upon the opposite side of the road and farther east, in the building afterward used for many years by Jacob Bergey as a shoeshop. There was at that time a great amount of travel over that road. Numerous droves of stock were driven over it on their way East. A large steam saw-mill was erected north from there, at Steam Town. This mill was destroyed by fire in 1867. It was owned by Loehr & Fretz at that time. D. G. Yoder now owns and operates a steam-mill upon the same site.

In 1847, David Norton erected a tannery upon the north side of Hubbard Creek, north of the present Town Hall Block. Dr. Thomas Hunter's office stood a little to the east from it at that time, it being the building now owned and occupied by James High as a fancy store. In 1848, Joseph Halliwell built a log blacksmith-shop on the flats east of Fall Creek, and one and one-half miles southeast from Seville. One George Watkins worked there two years, when he was sent to the penitentiary for the term of one year on the charge of grand larceny; he being the only person except one who has ever been sent to that institution from Guilford Township. The tannery belonging to David Norton was burned, and Mr. Norton died of erysipelas, of which disease many persons died in this community during that year.

On the 13th day of March, 1850, John B. Leland, Andrew Gray, Elias Harris, Julius E. Harris, Frank Cook, William High, Medwin Porter, John Devin and others left Seville with four-horse teams and covered wagons for California. As that country was at that time almost an unknown region, and as a great part of their journey thither lay over vast plains and through almost impassable mountains, a large concourse of people gathered to see them off, and many speculations were indulged in as to whether they would be lost upon the plains, frozen in

the mountains, or massacred by the hostile Indians that swarmed over a vast amount of the territory west of the Mississippi at that time. Notwithstanding the many difficulties that surrounded them continually, they overcame them all, and arrived safely at their destination in July, and all lived to return except John Devin and Medwin Porter. The latter died near Shasta in May, 1851, and John Devin died at Stockton on the 18th day of October, 1852.

In 1847, or thereabouts, John Wilson started a match-factory and David McMullen a tannery at Wilson's Corners, both of which enterprises were in operation there for several years. The Upper Grist-mill in Seville was erected about 1852, by E. W. Harris and D. W. Ressler. Both water and steam power were used. A large over-shot water-wheel was constructed underneath it, and upon a Saturday night when the mill-wrights quit work, this wheel was left free to move. Upon the following day, several boys congregated there, and, finding that they could turn it by treading upon one side of it, were engaged in so doing, when Delos Norton, a boy about twelve years of age, lost his balance and was forced through a small opening between the wheel and a piece of timber at its side, crushing him so badly that he lived but a short time after being taken out. This mill is now owned and operated by Mr. Adam Long, of Orrville, Ohio.

At about the same time, Benjamin Long opened a blacksmith-shop at the Corners east from the center, where Henry Workheiser now carries on a shop of the same kind. A short time previous to this William Colburn built a storeroom at Guilford Center, where he engaged in the dry goods trade for a few years, when he was succeeded by his brother Chester, who continued the business a short time, when he went to Wilson's Corners, where he followed the same calling. The building at the Center was afterward used for a schoolhouse until recently, when it was purchased by a neighbor, moved



away, and is now used as a stable. About the year 1855, an accident occurred on the ground now occupied by George Porter's building upon the bank of the Hubbard, being the present Seville Times office. It was in the winter season, and the sleighing was good. The saw-mill before referred to was then in operation near the grist-mill, and there was a road around this corner, over which persons drew saw logs to the mill. An Irishman who had been out in the country for a log for Mr. Arad Radway, for whom he was working, was just driving along on the bank of the creek, when the log, which was not fastened to the sled, rolled off and down into the creek, passing over the man, killing him instantly.

The steam saw-mill east of Seville was moved there from Wayne County in 1859, by J. B. and Samuel Coulter. It has changed hands several times since then, and is now owned and operated by one of the members of the original firm, Mr. J. B. Coulter and Tompkins Kidd.

In the fall of 1860, during the political campaign of that year, Aaron Walker, who lived about three miles east from Seville, made preparations to attend a mass meeting at Wooster. Having driven his team to the house, he was in the act of alighting from the wagon, when his team started, and, one of his feet becoming entangled in the wagon-wheel, he was thrown down and was unable to manage his team, which went tearing around the field, dragging Mr. Walker by his leg. The team was finally stopped, when it was found that the unfortunate man was dead. A few years later, in the fall of 1867, at Seville, as Mr. and Mrs. James Boland were leaving the Fair Grounds, and when in front of the Presbyterian Church, a team belonging to one William Kindig came running down the street, and, turning in toward the church, ran over Mrs. Boland, injuring her so badly that she lived but a short time after the accident. Following on then but two years, the community was shocked by another acci-

dent, as it was supposed. An old man was sleeping in the Harris Tannery, which stood where the present one stands, when a fire broke out in the building, which soon enveloped it in flames. A crowd gathered, as is usual upon such occasions, but, being unable to accomplish anything, the old man was left to his fate. His charred remains were found when the fire was over, and buried. He was a stranger in the place; was known but by few, and none now recollect his name.

Another painful accident occurred on the 16th day of May, 1877, when an engine boiler in the agricultural works of Critz & Son, in Seville, exploded, blowing the roof from the building and fatally injuring Charles Critz, who was the junior member of the firm, and alone in the shop at the time of the accident. He was found in an insensible condition among the debris, and taken home. He recovered his senses in a measure, and lingered in great pain for six days, when he died, lamented by a large circle of friends. He was a first-class mechanic, sober and industrious.

On the 1st day of November, 1880, John Fullerton was driving a spirited horse between the Chippewa bridge and the railroad, in Seville, when his horse took fright and threw him out of the wagon, inflicting severe injuries, from the effects of which he died on the 9th of the same month. He was an old citizen of Seville; was in business in the western part of the State, and had come home for the purpose of voting at the Presidential election.

Town Hall Block, in Seville, was erected in 1872—the east lower room by Stoaks, High & Bell, now owned and occupied as a hardware store by High & Bell; the center room by C. W. Hay, now owned and occupied by J. C. Boice as a drug store; the west room by C. M. Spitzer & Co., bankers, now owned and occupied by L. Wideman & Sons as a bank; and the upper story by the village of Seville, for a town-hall and offices.





The scenery therein was painted in the spring of 1873, by A. M. Willard.

The Methodist Church at Seville was organized in the year 1830, or thereabouts. Henry Wells, Ansell Briggs, Nathan Scranton, Ansell Brainard, Andrew Laird and Tunis Wells were among its first members. The present brick church edifice was erected in 1859. The church is in a flourishing condition at this time, with Rev. S. R. Clark, as Pastor. On the 25th day of June, 1831, there was a meeting of the citizens at the Chippewa Schoolhouse, for the purpose of organizing a Presbyterian Church. Revs. Barnes, of Medina, and Fay, of Wadsworth, were present. The following-named persons presented certificates of regular church membership, and were organized into a Church of Christ: James Bell, Isabel Bell, Margaret Bell, Martha Bell, James P. Smith, Violet Smith, Sarah Case, Thomas Whiteside, Ann Whiteside, Abraham Whiteside, Jane Colburn, Sarah Collins and Loisa Cook. The first site selected for building a meeting-house, was upon the center road, one mile east from the pike. A part of the timber for building was hauled upon the ground at that place, when another site was decided upon, it being the one where the large brick house now stands, in the north part of the village. When the building was ready to be raised, it was decided that no intoxicating liquors should be furnished for the occasion. As this was contrary to a long-established custom, it naturally caused much talk, and many openly declared, that "the frame would rot upon the ground, before it would be raised under that arrangement." No such trouble was experienced, however, and the building was raised without a murmur or an accident, being the first piece of work of the kind ever completed in the township, without the presence of liquor. This building was used as a house of worship until 1856, when the present church building was erected. On the 20th day of March, 1834, the following resolution was

passed at a meeting of the church: "That, in the opinion of this church, as a body, the manufacture, sale or use of ardent spirits, except for medicinal and mechanical purposes, is immoral, and ought to be abandoned by every professed Christian." Even at that early day, when, as we often hear asserted, "whisky was used as commonly as milk, and that a drunken man was seldom seen," the members of this organization took this advanced position in regard to the temperance reform. On the 10th of December, 1834, the form of church government was changed to Presbyterian, and Thomas Whiteside and David D. Dowd were elected Elders, and E. W. Harris, Deacon. Rev. Varnum Noyes was the first minister employed by the church, and he continued his labors with them almost unbrokenly, until 1871. He is still living, and in the absence of the pastor, or at the funeral services of some early settler, still preaches a sermon. Three of his children are now in Canton, China, acting in the capacity of missionaries. Henry Noyes left Seville with that object in view on the 22d of January, 1866. His sister Harriet, on the 15th of October, 1867, and Martha, another sister, in 1873. In 1876, Henry and Harriet came home, visiting Palestine on their way, and returned the following year. Rev. J. C. Elliott succeeded Mr. Noyes in the Pastorate of the church in Seville, which position he still occupies. The church is now composed of about one hundred members.

On the 13th of April, 1838, the Congregational Church of Guilford was organized, the following persons being members thereof: Caleb West, Bathsheba West, Bathsheba Whitney, James Bell, Isabella Bell, James Harkness, Margaret Bell, Martha Owen, Jesse Harkness, James Gray, Eliza Rhoads, Betsey Dennis, Adelia L. Russell, Isaac Gray, Mrs. Submit Russell, Maria Russell, Abraham Gray, Margaret Gray, Phoebe Rhoads, Eleanor Harkness, John C. Dix, Salmon Whitney, Marian Dix, Mary A. Harris, Nancy Bell, Sarah Russell,





Katharine Russell and Martha Gray. On the 29th day of March, 1841, the Ohio Legislature passed an act of incorporation for this church. In 1844, a house of worship was erected upon Lots 64 and 65, this site having been donated by Henry Hosmer. The first minister was Rev. Moses Longley. In 1853, a new house of worship was erected upon the site before named, the old house having been moved away. The new church was dedicated in January, 1854. Services were held regularly, most of the time, for several years. Rev. A. S. Shaffer was called to the pastorate in July, 1867, which position he occupied until the spring of 1869, since which time the church has been in an unsettled condition.

The Baptist church of Guilford was also organized in 1838, on the 7th of July, with the following members: John S. Welch, Margaret Welch, Jonathan Cotton, Polly Cotton, Timothy Phelps, Huldah Phelps, Sidney Hastings, Clarissa Hastings, Moses Greenwood, Sally Greenwood, Robert Suggett, Susan Suggett, B. H. Warren, Harrison Greenwood and Clarissa Greenwood. The first house of worship, being of brick, was erected in 1844, on Lots 66 and 67, this site also having been donated by Henry Hosmer. The first death that occurred in this church, was that of Hannah Welch, on the 18th day of April, 1845. On the 7th of March, 1860, John Ross, an aged Englishman, donated \$1,000 to this church, with which the present parsonage was built and the surrounding grounds purchased. In 1873, the old house of worship was taken down and the present one erected. Rev. J. W. Weatherby is the present pastor, and the church is in a prosperous condition.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church, which is situated in the eastern part of the township was organized in 1839, with John F. Long, C. Clows, Jacob Westerman, Conrad Snyder, Samuel Miller, Adam Everhart, John Koppes, Jacob Kraver, Michael Frye, Isaac Bartholomy

and Jacob Wright, with their families, as members. Meetings were held in houses and barns until 1842, when this congregation, with the German Reformed Church, which was organized about the same time, built a log meeting-house, which was used until 1867, when the present one was erected. The present Lutheran minister is Rev. J. H. Smith, and the present German Reformed Pastor, Rev. John Leiter. The present membership numbers over 200, and there is a prosperous Sunday school.

The small Lutheran Church near the center of Guilford was built about the year 1870. Services are held once each month. The new Methodist Church at Wilson's Corners was erected in 1878; Rev. Mr. Wolf is the present Pastor. In a community where so many churches were supported, the subject of schools would naturally receive attention. On the 20th of March, 1851, the Legislature passed an act incorporating the Seville Academy of Medina County. A sufficient amount of funds having been raised by subscription, with which to build and furnish a house, a meeting of the stockholders was held on the 7th of April of the same year. James A. Bell was elected President, L. W. Strong, Treasurer, D. D. Dowd, Clerk and Halsey Hulburt, L. W. Strong, Henry Hosmer, James A. Bell, Cornelius Welch, E. A. Norton and E. W. Harris, Directors. Mr. A. Harper, of Oberlin, was the first teacher employed in this institution, he commencing his first term on the 1st day of October, 1851, in the old Congregational Church, as the Academy building was not then finished. The enterprise proved successful, and, for many years, large numbers of young people came, not only from our own community, but from adjoining townships, to avail themselves of the advantages here offered for improvement. In 1868, the building was purchased by the Board of Education of Seville. This body proceeded to make the requisite additions to it to accommodate the village schools, which were organized at that time upon the



graded school plan. Mr. D. A. Haylor is Principal of the school at present, and John F. Dix, Miss La Vonne Weatherby and Miss Sarah Warner are the teachers of the lower departments. Elijah Myers is Clerk of Guilford Township, he having held that office continuously for twenty-five years. John Montgomery is Treasurer, which office he has held continuously since 1846, when he was first elected. Chauncey Spear, John Coolman and L. B. Wilson are Justices of the Peace, and John G. Chambers, William A. Lee and P. C. Steiner, Trustees. The village of Seville was incorporated in 1853 by the County Commissioners, under a general act of the Legislature conferring upon them the requisite power. Milton Stiles was the first Mayor, A. G. Hawley the first Clerk, and Aaron Leland, L. W. Strong, J. H. Brown, A. R. Whiteside and W. H. Hatch, the first Councilmen. The first meeting of the Council was on the evening of the 4th day of October, A. D. 1853. The present officers are J. T. Graves, Mayor; W. E. Barnard, Clerk; John Montgomery, Treasurer, and Van Bell, John Eshbaugh, J. F. Martin, C. R. Leland, Frank P. Wideman and A. P. Beach, Councilmen. The population of Seville is 588, and of the entire township, 1872, according to the census of 1880. River Styx is in the northeast corner of the township, is a pleasant village, and near it are the petrifying springs, quite a summer resort for pleasure-seekers. Steam Town is between River Styx and the center of Guilford, it being a little cluster of houses where Mr. Fred Beck has a blacksmith-shop and A. S. Ritter a wagon-shop. Of the little

company who came into Guilford in the spring of 1817, Henry Hosmer and Chester Hosmer are still living. Mary Y. Hosmer married Shubael Porter, had six children, and died on the 19th day of February, 1862, aged sixty-four years. Lyman Munson died at River Styx in 1863, aged eighty-two years. His son Albert has represented Medina County in the State Legislature, and is at present Probate Judge of the county. Abigail Porter married David Wilson; died in 1865 at River Styx. Moses Noble died at Seville on the 15th day of February, 1831, and Shubael Porter died on his farm near Seville, on the 14th day of March, 1870, aged seventy-two years. Henry Hosmer has held the offices of Justice of the Peace, County Commissioner, Coroner and Associate Judge of Medina County under the old constitution, and to him we wish to give credit for his assistance in gathering material for this history, also, to his daughter, Mrs. L. C. Cronise. Samuel Harris came from Saybrook, Conn., about 1820. Had three sons in the Mexican war. John S., now of La Crescent, Minn. William T. died in the United States Army, July 30, 1847, and Albert D., killed at the battle of Churubusco, August 20, 1847. Mr. Harris married Mabel Gibbs; he died July 22, 1844; his wife is still living at Seville, aged eighty years. Capt. M. V. Bates, the Kentucky giant, and his wife, Margaret Swan Bates, the Nova Scotia giantess, are residents of Guilford. They are the largest people in Ohio, if not the largest in America. They own a large farm east of Seville, upon which they have erected a fine large residence.





## CHAPTER XII.\*

HARRISVILLE TOWNSHIP—A PIONEER EXPLORER—THE HARRIS FAMILY—EARLY ADVENTURES  
—A PROSPEROUS SETTLEMENT—POLITICAL AND CIVIL DEVELOPMENT  
CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS.

IN that bright cluster of townships which to-day forms the county of Medina, Harrisville stands out pre-eminent as the one in which the first dawn of civilization broke forth, and the one in which the first home of a white man was reared. This township is the richest in pioneer lore, and in the interesting reminiscences of its earliest settlements. The treasures of memory that are culled from the first hardships, and the experiences and vicissitudes of the brave men and women who first penetrated into this unbroken wilderness, are to-day clothed with a sacred charm, upon which succeeding generations can scarcely look with anything less than veneration. The deeds of personal heroism and the persistent toil accomplished by our forefathers, are indelibly impressed for all time to come upon the fruitful fields, the shady groves, the picturesque valleys, and the bright and happy homes that dot our land.

Under the land company's survey, Harrisville was set apart as Township No. 1, Range 16. It is bounded on the north by Chatham, on the east by Westfield, on the west by Homer, and on the south by Wayne County. The land of Harrisville Township is somewhat rolling, and affords a variety of soil. In some parts, the land is clayey, and in others slightly sandy. Peat covers over 2,000 acres in this township. One-half of this territory has the deposit not over eighteen inches deep, the underlying being heavy, yet light colored. The average depth of the peat on 1,000 acres is about 5 feet. Most of the western and southern parts of this Harrisville swamp have been plowed. The bed-

rock is 12 to 18 feet below the surface of the marsh. The land can be shaken by jumping on it, although cattle go all over it. The digging of ditches has revealed quantities of shells, but no large fossils, as far as could be learned.

Railroad levels were run in 1853, between Wooster and Grafton. The extreme elevation of the road, as it was surveyed through the marsh, was 340.3 above Lake Erie. The road was to have been run west of the village of Lodi, and the elevation there was 336 feet above Lake Erie. This would give the surface, at the town pump, an altitude of about 350 feet. Harrisville is one of the townships in which the water "divides" to the Ohio River and Lake Erie. The great marsh is drained in both directions, and is much lower than most of the land along the "divide."

Quarrying has been carried on since 1840 in numerous places along Whetstone Creek, a mile southeast of Lodi. The rock is chiefly an argillaceous sandstone, most of the beds being only a few inches thick, and the thickest not twenty inches. The exposures here are twenty-five to thirty feet high. Large crevices run through all the rock, which is badly broken up.

In the fall of 1810, a sturdy young farmer, of the clear-headed, gritty New England type, started out on a journey Westward, after he had gathered the season's scanty crop of corn, wheat and potatoes. In his rude hut near Randolph, in Portage County, he left his young wife with her little babe, while he pushed on to prospect the land that lay further west, on which he might find a location more suitable to his ambitious desires, and rear thereon a new home.

\* Contributed by Charles Neil, Medina.



The impulse that started him on his journey was somewhat akin to that which impelled the famous Genoese navigator to plow the unknown seas and find a newer and richer land near the setting sun. What the needle of the compass and the starry points of the heavens had been to Columbus, the surveyor's "blazes" on the trees were to the intrepid, coarsely-clad pioneer. Unarmed, save with an ax, and carrying a limited supply of provisions, he took his course through the townships on the southern line of the Western Reserve. Coming to the stream in Westfield, now known as Campbell's Creek, and while crossing it on a log which reached from bank to bank, he heard a bear chopping its jaws, in an unpleasant manner, to say the least. Retreat was impossible, and, putting on a bold front, he advanced upon the beast! Fortunately, the bear did not wait to try conclusions, and incontinently broke for a place of safety. Scarcely pausing for this episode, he advanced, and before evening, when the sun was yet a half-hour high, he had reached the ridge which runs southward on the east of the valley in which the town of Lodi is now located. Before him, on a line with his eyes, was a waving mass of leaves—a forest of tall and majestic trees. The flickering light of the setting sun was dancing and glowing through the rustling leaves of the stately trees. With the awe-inspiring impression of the grand sight before him, the resolution formed itself in the young pioneer's mind that he would make this his future home.

After he had seen the sun sink behind the thick foliage, he built a fire and camped out for the night. The next morning he descended into the valley, and set about exploring the region. The rich virgin soil was studded with clumps of large walnut and oak trees. A small rivulet, a tributary of Black River, came winding through an open gorge from the north, and then bent westward, and, a mile further on, united with the waters of Black River. Fur-

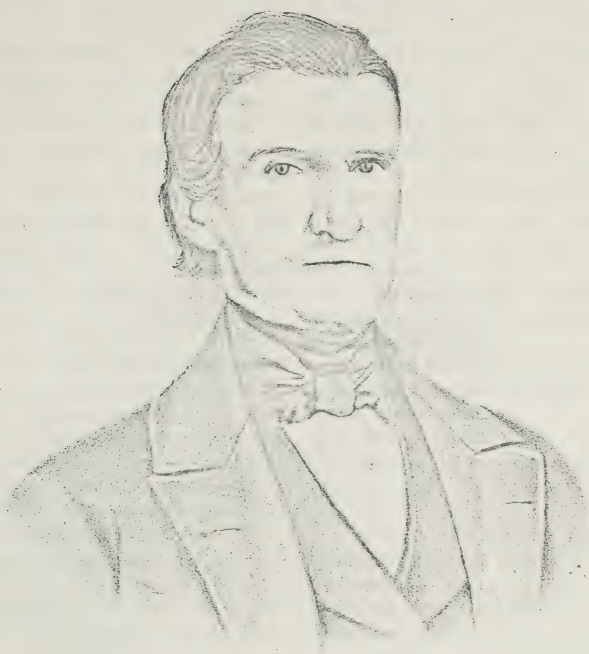
ther on to the west, he found another swell in the ground, which is again broken, a half-mile further on, by the course of the Black River. From thence there is a level stretch west through the township, slightly undulating. To the north of Lodi a high ridge extends along the west side of the East Branch of Black River into the township of Chatham, sloping toward the northwest down to the banks of Black River. Toward the south, from this base of location, which is now the center of Lodi, the land rolled out flat, and he found a large area of marsh land, thickly matted with alders, bogs, cranberry bushes and underbrush.

Young Harris set to work with his ax, after he had assured himself of the practicability of the undertaking and the natural resources and advantages for a settlement, selecting a site for a home. He placed his stake on a spot of ground which is now known as the Tuttle lot, a few rods south of the center of the village of Lodi. He kept at work for several weeks, and erected during this time by his own individual exertions, a small, rude log house, and cut down a small tract of timber. This accomplished, he retraced his steps to the mother settlement, near Randolph, in Portage County, which at that time, included the territory in which he had just selected his new home. This pioneer was Joseph Harris, the first settler of Medina County, after whom the township of Harrisville has been named.

The Connecticut Land Company had, in the year 1807, under the old charter, granted by King Charles II, of England, to the Colony of Connecticut, made a division of their lands west of the Cuyahoga River Township, and No. 1, in Range 16, (Harrisville) had been drawn by sixteen incorporators, whose names are as follows: Nehemiah Gaylord, John and Jabes Gillett, Solomon Rockwell and brothers, Ezekiah Huntington, William Battell, Russ Burr, Job Curtis' heirs, Thomas Huntington, Royal Tylee, Wright & Sutliff, Joseph Har-







*Joseph Harris*



ris. Martin Kellogg, Burr & Loomis, Joseph Battell and Eliphalet Austin, which was known as the Toringford Land Company, together with 2,000 acres, in Township No. 1, in Range 15, to compensate for swamp land in Harrisville Township. In the spring of 1810, the township was surveyed by a party sent out by the Connecticut Land Company, and subdivided into lots of 100 acres each. A road was also established during this same year, by the company of Portage County, through No. 1, from the Franklinton road, in Norton, west, through the center, to the east line in Huron County. The Legislature of the young State of Ohio, also during this year, appropriated \$800, by a legislative act, to establish a State road, to run from Mansfield to Cleveland, through this township. After the subdivision of the lands in this township had been made, Mr. Joseph Harris was delegated by the Toringford Company, with the power of an agent, to dispose of and effect sales of the land. The price of the land was fixed at \$2 per acre, Mr. Harris being granted the privilege of 200 acres as a pioneer settlement—location to be deducted from his undivided portion.

After his return to Randolph, from his journey into Harrisville Township, he set about making preparations to remove his family to the new territory in the following spring. When February came, the young pioneer had all of his affairs in shape, had his household goods and personal effects, few as they were, gotten together, and was now ready to move into the new settlement. On the morning of the 11th of February, 1811, the "moving" party started out from the settlement near Randolph, for the new land, that was about forty miles to the west. The train consisted of four sleds, each drawn by a yoke of oxen. Three of these trains had been gratuitously furnished by the neighbors of Mr. Harris, to help him to his new settlement. The ground was covered with about a foot of snow, and the progress of the pioneers was

rather slow. Near the evening of the third day, they arrived in the lowlands south of Lake Chippewa. A halt was made here for the night, on account of the exhausted condition of the cattle, which had found it a wearisome march through the snow that lay unbroken in the road.

Mr. Harris, with his wife and her two-year-old boy, mounted a horse and pushed forward the same day toward their new home, which was about eight miles distant. On the next morning, the 14th day of February, 1811, the ox-teams arrived in Harrisville, and Mr. Joseph Harris, his wife and child, together with a trusty, bright young lad, named James Redfield, who was about eleven years old at that time, settled permanently in the new township; and it is from this day that the first settlement of Harrisville Township dates.

The life of the settler in this new clearing, miles away from human habitation, was full of hardships and privations. Winter was still on hand with its benumbing coldness, and the ground and woods were alternately covered with snow and slush. The log hut was small, and the only opening in it, serving as a door, was covered by a blanket. The first days were spent in cutting down trees, and making new openings in the woods and laying out roads. A small addition was made to the log hut, and its interior more comfortably arranged. Small brush sheds, for the shelter of the horse and two cattle were erected. With the opening of spring, new life sprang up in this little colony. New work began; the ground of the cleared tract was got ready, and seeding commenced.

The nearest neighbors were, at that time, at Wooster, in Wayne County, a settlement seventeen miles south, on the Killbuck River. Wooster was then one of the trading-posts in the northwest. An Indian trail leading from Sandusky to Wooster, and thence on to Pittsburg, ran through Harrisville Township, a few miles west of the center of Lodi. Hunters and trappers of the different Indian tribes which at that





time roamed through Northern Ohio, passed often over this trail, taking their hides and furs to market. The location selected by Mr. Harris, had also been, and was then, one of the favorite hunting grounds of the Wyandot and Ottawa Indians, and many of their wigwams—still in a good state of preservation—were standing near the spot he selected for the site of his residence. Still, although the social relations that subsisted at this time between Mr. Harris and these denizens of the forest were of the most friendly and reciprocal character, yet, true to their national characteristics, they preferred retirement from the proximity of the pale-faces, abandoning their lodges, and building new ones from two to six miles distant. A few years later, Capt. Wolf, of the Delawares, a sort of missionary among the tribes of Indians north of the Ohio, and a man tolerably well educated, and who looked after the trapping interests at Chippewa Lake, quite frequently visited the Harrisville colony, and conversed and talked with the settlers. He had been under Gen. Harrison's command, and had been an eye-witness to the battle of Lake Erie, fought by Commodore Perry on the 10th of September, 1812. He gave the Harrisville people a description of the battle as he witnessed it, and told them other adventures of his career, which was all very entertaining. Mr. Albert Harris, son of Joseph Harris, often went, when he was a lad ten or twelve years old, as a companion of Wolf's son—a young buck about the same age—with the Indian Captain to Lake Chippewa, to look over the trapping-ground. The old Indian would put the two boys in a bark canoe, and paddle them back and forth across the lake. The younger Harris is still a resident of Harrisville Township, and has fresh in his memory the days of the early settlement in this township, when young papooses were the associates of his childhood.

With June of the same year there came an accession to the new colony. George Burr and

his wife and his brother Russell, arrived that month from Litchfield County, Conn., and settled on a lot adjoining Mr. Harris. The month of September brought in two more settlers, Calvin and Lyman Corbin, from the city of Boston, Mass., who purchased and settled on the farm now owned by George Burr, a mile south of Lodi. That fall the first crop of corn and potatoes was gathered in the township. Autumn, with its blustering days, was on hand, and cold winter was fast approaching. The Harrisville colony now consisted of five men, two women and two boys. There were three log huts about one-half mile apart from each other, seven yoke of oxen and one horse and two dogs, with a lot of household furniture and farming tools and wagons. This was the inventory on the 1st day of October, 1811.

About this time Mr. Joseph Harris contracted with one Daniel Cross, a carpenter living near Randolph, to put up a log barn in Harrisville. Cross with his son Avery (who was about eleven years old) came out from Randolph during the fall, with a yoke of oxen, the boy to drive them and haul the logs together, while the old man cut them. The barn was finished in about a month's time. For this job, Mr. Cross received, in payment, a yoke of oxen.

With the declining year came long evenings, and with them the need and desire of sociability and an interchange of views upon topics of common interest to all. The prospects, the new land and the crops had to be talked about; and, then, there was the old home in the East, with all its dear associations of childhood; the political affairs of the young Republic. These sturdy pioneers often gathered, during these days, in one of the log cabins, and there sat by day and in the evenings, before the flickering fire of a log or stump burning on the hearth, and discussed, like true, sober-minded New Englanders, matters and events that were of interest to them.

The first intimation the Harrisville people



had of the serious hostilities which began in 1812 was the arrival of a messenger from Randolph, in Portage County, bringing a newspaper containing the declaration of war, also a letter warning the settlers of their danger, as it was not then known in whose interest the Indians would enlist, and urgently soliciting them to return to the older settlements. A consultation was then held in the evening at Mr. Harris' house, which resulted in the conclusion, that, under existing circumstances, it would be safer to repair to the settlements until something more decisive could be learned in relation to the political affairs on the then extreme northwestern frontier. Accordingly, the next morning, Mr. Harris, Russell and George Burr, with the Corbins, loaded the most valuable of their household goods on wagons, and, with seven yoke of oxen, started for Randolph, George Burr's wife having gone there some weeks previous. Almost at the outset, one of the wagons was unfortunately overturned, throwing Mrs. Harris and the child from the wagon. But, quite undaunted, although badly bruised, she insisted on going forward, and, that the journey might be expedited, she was mounted with her child on the only horse in the settlement. Accompanied by her husband on foot, she reached their friends in Randolph the next morning, having been obliged to lie out overnight in the woods on account of having lost the trail when within a mile or two of the settlement. The settlers, in leaving their homes, of necessity had to abandon their crops; and, as the prosperity of the settlement depended on their being secured, Mr. Harris, on the following Monday morning, mounted his horse, shouldered his trusty rifle, and, accompanied only by his faithful dog, proceeded on his solitary way back to Harrisville. As he approached the settlement, he discovered that some person had been in the vicinity during his absence. On examining the tracks, he discovered that some had been

made with shoes and some with moccasins. Dismounting from his horse and muffling the bell (an appendage, by the way, which all early settlers were in the habit of attaching to their domestic animals), he cautiously proceeded to examine the Indian trail leading from Sandusky to Wooster, and, discovering no appearance of Indians having passed along it, he soon came to the conclusion that some white person must have been in the vicinity during his absence.

On entering his cabin, appearances indicated that a number of persons had passed a night there, having used some of his iron ware for the purpose of cooking. It was afterward found out that the Commissioners appointed by the Legislature to establish a road from Mansfield to Cleveland passed a night at Mr. Harris' house, cooking their supper and breakfast there. Mr. Harris, finding that his wheat was not yet fit for harvesting, set about hoeing his corn and potatoes. After having been here about ten days, Russell Burr and Elisha Sears came out and harvested the crops belonging to the Burrs, which occupied about five days, and then returned to Randolph. Mr. Harris remained about five weeks, his dog being his sole companion during the whole time, except the five days that Burr and Sears were with him. His only bed was an old wagon-board, each end of which was so supported that it had a sort of spring motion, and furnished as much rest and comfort to his weary body after a day's hard toil as the modern spring bed gives to the gentleman of leisure.

On the return of Mr. Harris to Portage County, he first learned of the surrender of Hull, at Detroit, to the British, and, at a call from Gen. Wadsworth, the militia on the Reserve turned out en masse, and Harris, with Burr and others, were out in the campaign some three weeks, in and about Cleveland. After a short service in the Western Reserve Militia during the month of September, Harris,





with his companions, returned to Randolph, and preparations were then made to return forthwith to Harrisville. The Corbins had sold out their possessions in Harrisville about this time, and Russell Burr returned to his home in Connecticut. This left Joseph Harris and George Burr alone, with their families, of those who once made up the infant settlement. Harris and Burr, with their families, again reached Harrisville in the first week in October, 1812, finding everything quiet and unmolested. Here was again a trying period before them. Winter was again close at hand, and, being almost entirely isolated from the world around them, and away from post roads and post offices, they could, of course, know little or nothing of what was transpiring outside of the settlement, and they necessarily lived in that uneasy state of uncertainty, which, to be realized, must be experienced. Yet nothing occurred to disturb their quiet until some time in the latter part of November, when, in the early part of the evening, was heard what was supposed to be the shrill whoop of an Indian, easily discerned to be in an easterly direction, and supposed to be about half a mile distant. Mr. Burr, whose house was nearer to the point from which the whoop seemed to come, hastily seized his rifle, and, taking his wife and child, instantly started for the Harris cabin, giving the old horse, which was quietly feeding in the woods, a sharp cut, to send him on a keen run toward Harris' house, rattling his bell and alarming his family, together with the old dog, which, barking and bounding about, added considerable to the agitation. Mr. Harris was already on the *qui vive*. He was out on the trail, with his rifle in his hand, after first taking the precaution to extinguish the light in his cabin. After meeting with the Burr family, the women were barricaded in the house, and the men took positions outside to await developments. Soon footsteps were heard, and then a human form came in sight, nearing the house. Harris drew up his

rifle and halted the man. It was then discovered that he was a settler from Randolph named Billy Thornington, who had come out on an exploration tramp to see the country, and, having lost his way, had given the yell. He remained with them for a short time, and then returned to the mother settlement in Portage County.

With the beginning of the new year, 1813, snow commenced to fall and covered the ground several feet deep. The young settlers were almost completely snowed in, and it was nearly an impossibility to visit one of the sister settlements. Then a biting cold frost set in and continued until the latter part of February. After that the weather moderated. On the night of the 6th of March, a foot messenger arrived at the house of Mr. Harris and informed him that Henry Chittenden, in charge of five teams loaded with forty barrels of flour, being forwarded by Norton & Adams, contractors at Middlebury, to General Perkins' camp on the Huron River, were detained by the deep snow in the wilderness in the neighborhood of the Chippewa, and were entirely destitute of forage and provisions, having been five days out from Middlebury. The messenger had come to solicit aid from Mr. Harris. He promptly responded and proceeded at once to their camp, with a supply of provisions for the men and a bag of corn for the team. He left his house about midnight in company with the messenger, and arrived at the camp at 4 o'clock in the morning. His reception by the half-starved men at the camp can better be imagined than described. The provision train was now only thirty-two miles from Middlebury, their starting-point, and forty-five miles had yet to be traveled through an unbroken wilderness, to reach the camp of the American army on the Huron River. Their teams were overloaded and underfed. Their only reliance for succor and help seemed to be Mr. Harris, his place being the only settlement on the route. He came very generously to their





relief. Furnishing the men with provisions such as his own scanty supply afforded, and giving forage for the teams, he hitched up his own ox-team, and, thus lessening the load of others, he started next day with them for the camp at Huron. After a slow and laborious journey, they reached the camp on the eighth day out from Harrisville settlement. The return trip to this settlement only consumed about four days. The commission firm from Middlebury referred to, continued thereafter to supply the American army under Perkins on the shores of Lake Erie. Their trips in forwarding these supplies were made more expeditiously after a road had been cut through, but the provision trains always found it convenient to stop at the Harrisville settlement on their journeys back and forth.

In the spring of this year, many of the militiamen in the Northwestern army, from the counties of Knox and Wayne, and from other counties in Southeastern Ohio, passed through the settlement, their terms of service having expired. Mr. Harris often entertained companies of from ten to twenty of these returning soldiers at a time, and always furnished them the best his scanty board afforded. During the winter of 1812, a detachment of troops from Pennsylvania was stationed at Wooster, Wayne County, under the command of Gen. Bell. Provisions for soldiers, as well as for the horses employed in the service, were scarce, and commanded high prices. Tempted by the prospect of gain, Avery Cross, of Randolph, in Portage County, set out the latter part of December, with a load of oats for the army. He was accompanied by his son Samuel, a young man of about eighteen years. On arriving at Wooster, they found teams were so scarce that the army had not the means of transportation, and, by the offer of high prices, Cross was induced to go with the army as far as Mansfield, and aid in transporting baggage and forage. At Mansfield, he was paid off, and

started for home. On the road between Mansfield and Wooster, he purchased seventeen head of cattle, with which he arrived at Wooster on the last day of December. The next day, he and his son started up the valley of the Killbuck, intending to reach the settlement of Joseph Harris, with whom they were well acquainted. Soon after they left Wooster, there came on a terrible snow-storm, which lasted three days. Nothing further was heard of Cross and his son, until the March following, when, his family becoming alarmed at his lengthened absence, sent another son in pursuit of them. Finding they had left Wooster on the 1st day of January for the north, the son sent in pursuit of them took their trail up the Killbuck to Harris' settlement, where he ascertained they had not been there, and that several cattle had been taken up during the winter, for which no owner could be found. It was now evident that they had perished. The few settlers in that region turned out to find them. In the valley of the Killbuck, they found the trail of the cattle, but, instead of following it, which would have led them to Harris', it seems Cross got bewildered, and, when within a mile of the settlement, which lay northwest, he took another valley, which led them a southeastwardly course into what is now Westfield. Here, almost three miles from Lodi, they found the skull of Cross, and some of his bones, the flesh having been entirely eaten off by wolves. Near by, was found a jack-knife and a small pile of sticks, where he had tried to make a fire, but failed. Pieces of clothing, and his great-coat, were found near by, showing the place where he and his son lay down to sleep after they had failed to make a fire. The bones of a yoke of oxen, still in the yoke, and chained to a tree, were lying near by, and the bones of another yoke of oxen, still in the yoke, a little further off. From all of them, except the last yoke, the flesh had been entirely eaten. It was evident that one of them



had not been dead long, as the flesh was but partly eaten, and the blood in a fluid state. The trail was very plain to be seen where this ox had drawn his mate around, after he was dead, while the living one was trying to get something on which to live. No remains of young Cross were ever found. The bones of the old man were gathered up, and buried in a field just south of the village of Lodi. An inscription carved on a beech-tree, marks the place of the pioneer's death. Nothing but a natural mound, in which he was buried, marks his burial-place.

Another incident in these early days, of less tragical outcome than the one just related, but giving a glimpse of the life of the pioneers, has been related by James Redfield. Their grain, at that time, had to be carried on horseback to a mill in Wooster, seventeen miles distant. At one time, when James Redfield was a boy about twelve years old, Mr. Harris had balanced two bags of grain on his horse, and placed the boy on top, and started him for Wooster. The boy proceeded all right until about half-way to the mill, when the bags overbalanced, and slipped from the horse. The boy had not strength sufficient to replace the bags on the horse, though he labored desperately for an hour or more. Returning to the settlement for help, he found Mr. Harris had gone. So his wife mounted the horse behind the boy, and the two rode back where the bags had been left. Replacing them on the horse, she started the boy for Wooster, walking back through the woods to her home.

In February, 1814, Russell and Justus Burr reached the settlement from Connecticut, and settled in the immediate vicinity of the two families already located. In March of the same year, young James Redfield, a lad fourteen years of age, who had remained in Randolph after the flight from Harrisville in 1812, again made his advent in the new settlement, and took up his abode with the family of Mr. Harris. He was a hardy, plucky boy, and the career of

his life is inseparably connected with the development of Harrisville Township, and the history of Medina County. It was in the years closely following his return to the new settlement, when James was fast ripening into young manhood, that he became one of its notable and interesting characters. He became noted for his prowess and dexterity in trapping and hunting wild game, in a large measure taking away from the Indians in this neighborhood their occupation. In the period of a very few years, he caught 122 wolves, for which he received a bounty given by the State Government. He related to the writer, that, "having at one time caught one of those beasts by the end of the forefoot, and fearing that in its struggles it would get its foot out of the trap and escape, he pounced upon it, cuffed its ears, and put the foot into the trap, carrying it in this way into the settlement. This wolf, it would seem, was about as passive as old Put's, when he applied the twist to its nose, for it offered no resistance, and seemed completely cowed." Another hunting adventure told by him occurred in the earlier days of the settlement. Finding his traps tampered with, of which he had out a large number, in a circuit of several miles from the settlement, and the game taken therefrom, he secreted himself with his trusty gun in the crotch of a tall sycamore on the Black River bottoms, where he remained overnight to await events in the morning. In the morning, he espied several redskins sneaking along the river banks, and killing and taking from his traps whatever animals were caught. He waited until one of the scoundrels came within easy range of his rifle, and then let him have it; the Indian made a big jump in the air, and he and his companion beat a precipitate retreat west of Black River. His traps were no more molested after that. In the spring of 1816, when James was a boy seventeen years old, he took a contract to chop out a road from the center of Harrisville to the center of Medina, for which





appropriations had been made by the State Legislature. It was a distance of ten miles, on which he made fifty-seven rods of bridge and causeway, principally bridge. He proceeded from day to day with his work, following the prescribed survey, having a small supply of provisions with him. When night came, he would build a fire, eat his supper, and then peel off a large sheet of bark from an oak-tree, and roll himself up in it and go to sleep. He had the road cut out through to Medina in the fall.

New families came into the settlement in the spring of 1814. The first were Timothy Munson, of Vermont, and Loammi Holcomb, from the State of New York, who with their families came in April and settled on the west bank of Black River, about two miles from Mr. Harris' house. From that year on, the influx of settlers increased and permanent settlements were made in the close neighborhood. In the spring of 1815, there arrived Timothy Burr, Alvin Loomis, Collins Young and Job Davis, with their families, and to these were added in the year 1816, the families of Carolus Tuttle, Isaac Catlin, Nathan Marsh, Elisha Bishop, Perez and Nathaniel Rogers and James Rogers, who came together in the spring. Later on in the same year, came Charles Lewis, David Birge, Josiah Perkins and William Welsh, all of whom located permanently in the township, at various points, from a quarter of a mile to three miles distant from the original location, where Mr. Joseph Harris had placed his homestead.

More came in the spring of 1817, whose names are Noah Kellog, Jason Spencer, Noah Holcomb, Thomas Russell, Isaac Rogers, Orange Stoddart, Daniel Delvin, Henry K. Joline, Cyrus and Arvis Chapman, Jonathan Fitts, David Rogers, Cyrus Curtis, George Hanna, and Dr. William Barnes, quite a genius in his way. He assumed the functions of preacher, doctor and miller in the colony, and soon after his advent

became a man of considerable importance to the people of Harrisville.

A notable event occurred in the settlement on the 15th of April, 1815. It was the birth of a daughter to George and Mehitable Burr. There was great rejoicing over the arrival of this little messenger from heaven, among the pioneers. It was the first child born in the township. It lived but a few years, dying in July, 1817. It was buried on its father's farm. The funeral services were simple but impressive; all the settlers with their families attended. Dr. William Barnes conducted the services, and preached a sermon over the grave of the child.

In the spring of 1818, there came nine more families, among them being Lomer Griffin and his wife and six sons and one daughter. Lomer Griffin was destined to become one of the most remarkable and most widely-known men of Harrisville Township and Medina County, on account of the unprecedented age he attained.

There were now thirty-five families in the settlement. Clearings were made on every side, and the area of soil on which the sun threw its beneficent rays and rewarded human labor with crops of grain, grew larger every day. Joys had also come to the sturdy pioneers. One of these was a marriage feast, the contracting parties to which were Levi Holcomb and Miss Laura Marsh, which occurred in November, 1816. There being no Justice of the Peace in the township at that time to solemnize the marriage contract, Mr. James Rogers volunteered his services to procure the needed official dignity. Setting out on foot, he started for Wadsworth, and there secured Esquire Warner, who readily assented to come out the next day and legalize the ceremony. Mr. Rogers stayed overnight to return with the official next day; but Mr. Warner was taken severely ill during the night, and it was quite impossible for him to fulfill his engagement. Here was a dilemma. The wedding



had been set for that very night, and no one on hand to perform the ceremony; but Mr. Rogers, true to his purpose, pushed on east to Norton, to Esquire Van Heinans; but this gentleman was out on a deer hunt, and did not return until night, when he informed Mr. Rogers that he could not go with him. This, to most men, would have been a settler; not so to Mr. Rogers. These reverses and backsets only stimulated his zeal the more, for, on learning that there was a Justice of the Peace in Coventry, he forthwith went there and engaged the services of an Esquire Heathman, and the two together arrived at Harrisville the next day after the wedding should have been. However, the affair was closed up that evening. This was the first wedding in Medina County. Other festivities and excitement of a general kind, at this time, were wolf-hunts, for the purpose of destroying and driving out these troublesome beasts.

There lived, during the years from 1830 to about 1839, an old and strange character near the Harrisville settlement. Nobody knew whither he had come; and, when he, in the latter year, disappeared, it remained unknown where he had gone. He was known to the settlers as "Old Cherryman," and was supposed to be a half-breed, as traits of Caucasian and Indian blood mingled in his features. He inhabited one of the little cabins, back in the woods, that had been abandoned by its builder. He wore a pair of buckskin trousers, and a cloak made out of wolfskin; on his head he wore a squirrel cap, and his feet were clothed in leather moccasins. His hair hung in long strings over his shoulders, and his sallow, brown-colored, peaked face was covered with a grizzly beard. His sole companion in the woods, and at his lodgment were two rifles, which he invariably carried about with him on his tramps. When he spotted any game, he would drop one of his guns. He was taciturn and uncommunicative, and would talk with no

person more than the disposal of his slaughtered game, and the buying of ammunition, required. One of his ways to track the deer and bring them within reach of his rifle was to start with a burning hickory torch and burn a line of the dry leaves and grass through the woods for a considerable distance. This sometimes caused great annoyance and trouble to the farmers, as, in many instances, the fire would extend, and, quite often, burn down timber. The deer would approach the fire line, but would be afraid to cross it, and pass along its entire length, while the old hunter would post himself at some convenient spot, and kill the deer as they passed along. The farmers of the neighborhood finally made efforts to have him stop this practice, as they feared that great injury might be done to their property by the fire. He stolidly listened to the remonstrances, and made no reply. He suddenly disappeared, and was never seen again in the locality.

The first symptom of political organization manifested itself in 1816, when an "Ear-mark" and Estray Recorder was appointed, Alvin Loomis being the person who was endowed with this function. This was unquestionably the first office held by any person in Medina County. This is the direct antecedent of the much-maligned "pound-keeper" of to-day. It was an outgrowth of necessity at that time. There were no fences, and the cattle ran at large. To distinguish the ownership of the cattle and sheep and hogs, a distinct and separate ear-mark by every owner of stock in the colony, was required, and the mark properly recorded in a book kept by the "Ear-mark" Clerk. The first entry in the book reads as follows: "Harrisville Township, Portage County, State of Ohio, April 16, 1816.—This day Joseph Harris entered his ear-mark for his cattle, sheep and hogs, which is as follows: A half-penny on the under side of the left ear." Then follows Timothy Burr, whose mark is "a swallow-tail in the end of the right ear." Rus-





sell Burr, "a square crop off the right ear." Five more were recorded in this year; two in 1817; one in 1818. Then follow records every year up to the year 1865. A complete political organization of the township was effected in April, 1817, and the new township then included all the territory which now belongs to the townships of Harrisville, Westfield, La Fayette, Chatham, Spencer, Huntington, Rochester, Troy, Sullivan and Homer. Twenty-nine votes were cast at the election held for township officers on October 6, 1877, at the little schoolhouse erected in the spring of that year. The poll sheet of this election has been lost, but the following were elected as township officers for the ensuing year: Joseph Harris, Loammi Holcomb and Isaac Catlin, Trustees; Isaac Catlin, Justice of the Peace; and Timothy Burr, Township Clerk. The first is a list of the taxable property of Harrisville Township, made out by Willey Hamilton in the spring of 1819. There are eighty-one names listed, and their personal property comprises 49 horses and 211 neat cattle. This included territory north, east and west, other than what constitutes Harrisville Township to-day, although at that time it all came within its political boundaries. The next election occurred in Harrisville on the 12th day of October, 1819, at which time, State, county and township officers were voted for by the Harrisville people. Thirty-nine votes were cast at this election. At one of the township elections in the early years, forty-seven candidates were voted for, though there were but thirty-one votes cast. This included all the different township offices, such as Road Supervisor, Overseer of the Poor, Fence Overseer and "Ear-mark" Recorder. Some of the candidates had the honor of receiving ballots for four and five different offices. From this, it may be inferred that there was as much strife for office among our forefathers as there is among the politicians of to-day. This is again well illustrated at a special election held on July 3

following, to elect two Justices of the Peace. Twenty-nine votes were deposited, and they were divided among eleven candidates, as follows: Waynewright De Witt, 23; Leonard Chapman, 24; Elijah De Witt, 2; James Rogers, 2; William Burr, 1; Amos Witter, 1; Joseph Harris, 1; Jonathan Pitts, 1; Lomer Griffin, 1; Carolus Tuttle, 1; and Ebenezer Harris, 1. The names of the voters at this election, the first Presidential held in Harrisville Township, were Aaron Loomis, Reuben Chapman, Arvis S. Chapman, Joseph Harris, James Rogers, Seeva Chapman, Cyrus Chapman, Loammi Holcomb, Carolus Tuttle, Timothy Burr and Levi Chapman. At the next spring election, forty-seven votes were polled. This increased, at the election on April 7, 1823, to fifty-six. During the fall of that year, the people of Harrisville were thoroughly aroused in the Presidential canvass that was being waged between Andrew Jackson (Democrat) and John Q. Adams (National Republican). Sixty-five citizens came out that day for the Adams Electors, and one solitary vote had been cast for Andrew Jackson. Then indignation arose. Who could have been the traitor in their midst, who had presumed to vote for Andrew Jackson and the Democratic ticket? When it was suggested by Waynewright De Witt that the man who had presumed to vote the Democratic ticket should be rewarded by a free ride on a rail, and the scorn of the entire colony, Josiah Perkins arose and defiantly declared that he had been the man, and intimated to the suggestor of the free ride that he was ready, right then and there, to sustain the virtue of a free ballot with a little more forcible argument than mere words. But it did not go further than words, and the political excitement soon subsided, and pleasant good feeling was restored. At the Presidential election held on November 2, 1832, 86 votes were cast. The Henry Clay Electors (Whig) received 45 votes, and the Andrew Jackson Electors (Democrat)





41. Four years later, the vote ran up to 171 votes, the William H. Harrison Electors receiving 100 votes, and the Martin Van Buren Electors 71. On November 3, 1840, the total vote in Harrisville Township amounted to 240, the Whig candidate receiving 133, and the Democrat 102. The most intense excitement known in the election annals of Harrisville Township was created at the Presidential election held in 1844. The anti-slavery sentiment of the North was asserting itself all over the country, and it had come to the surface in the new settlement. Five of the citizens of Harrisville, whose names are Timothy Burr, Milo Loomis, Ebenezer Munson, L. M. Grant and John Grant, voted the "Free-Soil" or "Third-Party" ticket at this election.

In connection with the growth and development of the township, stand the men and women whose names will ever be associated with its history. First and foremost stands the founder and pioneer settler of the township, Judge Joseph Harris. His life's career has been told in the foregoing pages. He helped and sustained all laudable and beneficent enterprises, social, religious, political and industrial, that were advanced and consummated, until the day when his eyes were closed in death. He died on the 2d of October, 1863, at the age of eighty-one years, at the home which he built in the town of Lodi. As prominent by his side is the life of his wife, Rachel, who followed him to the grave about ten years later. She came with him to the settlement, and endured all the hardships, struggles and privations of the pioneer life, and with him enjoyed the sweet reward of their energy and industry by his side. She died on the 5th of October, 1874, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Henry Ainsworth.

Another life, graven in the township's history, is that of James Rogers, one of its first pioneers. His public labors will go down with it to coming posterity. He died November 20, 1877.

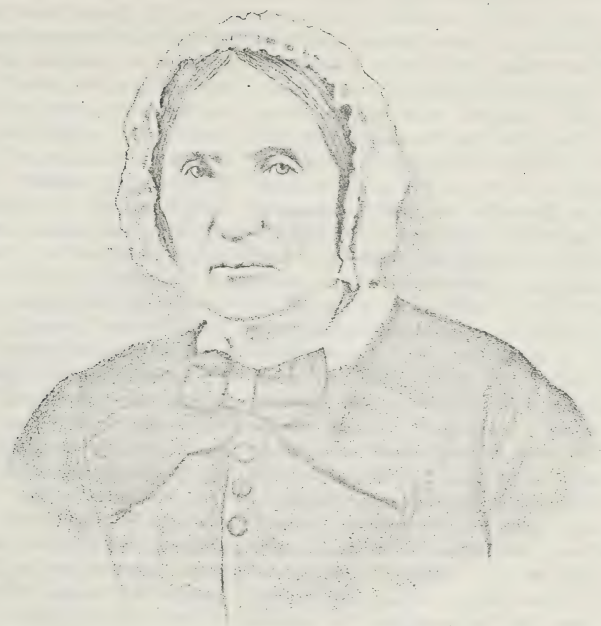
Quite as brilliantly in this gallery of historical characters, stands James Starr Redfield. His life is told in the history of the township. Another personage, perhaps the widest known the world over, is Lomer Griffin. A few years ago, the world knew him as one of the most remarkable men of the day. He attained an age that no man with well-authenticated record of birth and age had ever reached before. A few years ago, at the time of Mr. Griffin's death, the writer prepared the following obituary, which was published in the leading journals of America and England: "The last mortal remains of Lomer Griffin, the man whose life covers a century, and who has exceeded the Scriptural allotment of years given to man by nearly two scores, have been borne to their final resting-place. There are but few mortals to whom such a rich harvest of years are given. He was cotemporary with times and events that have gone into history generations ago. When he first saw the light of day, this Republic, whose existence now covers a period of over a hundred years, was unborn, and was yet but the dream of a few brave men. The grand struggle for freedom, on this side of the Atlantic, had not yet commenced. He was yet a boy when those burning lines that gave birth and liberty to a great nation were indited and proclaimed to mankind, and, as a boy, he shared in the triumphs and glory of the Revolutionary host. The vast domain west of the Alleghenies was yet one unbroken wilderness, and the numberless treasures hidden within them were undreamed of by man.

"The old man is dead now, and he rests well in his grave. His last breath passed from him on Monday evening, and he died peacefully. Life ebbed slowly away. It was an easy, natural death. He clung to life as long as there was a spark of vitality left in him, and it was some days after parts of his body had turned cold that he fell into the never-ending slumber.

"Just seven weeks ago to-day, Mr. Griffin



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RACHEL HARRIS.





walked out in his back yard on a rainy morning to split some kindling wood, and do a few chores, as was his wont. He was found prostrate on the ground shortly after, having met with a fall. He was carried in the house and placed in a bed, from which he never rose again. He lingered along bravely, but, within a week or so, it became apparent that he could live no longer. The machinery of life was worn out, and, on Monday evening, the news passed out that Lomer Griffin, the oldest man in America, was gone forever. The funeral took place in the Congregational Church in Lodi on Thursday afternoon, September 19, 1878, and was conducted by the Rev. William Moody, of La Fayette, assisted by the Rev. Mr. Whitman, of Chatham. After the services, the corpse was placed in a convenient spot in the open air, to give the large crowd of mourners who had gathered, a parting look of the remains. After the viewing of the body, it was conveyed to the village cemetery, followed by a large procession. The following gentlemen, all advanced in years, and old settlers of this county, acted as pall-bearers: Albert Harris, Dyer Strong, John Holmes, B. F. Criswell, Albert Brainard and Henry Obers. The body was placed by the side of his first wife, who died in 1830, and lies buried in these grounds.

"The precise age of the deceased, which has long been under dispute, has, at last, been conclusively settled, and he was, beyond a doubt, now, one hundred and six years six months and twenty-five days, on the day of his death. Mr. Griffin was born in Granby (formerly Simsbury), Litchfield Co., Conn. We have been furnished with a copy of the family record of the Griffin family, as recorded in the Archives at Granby, and we give that part of the record pertaining to the birth of Lomer Griffin: 'Chedorlaomer Griffin, the son of Nathaniel Griffin, by Abigail, his wife, was born in Simsbury the 22d of April, A. D. 1772.'

"The reason that this record of the birth was not sooner discovered and all disputes about his age at once settled, was that he had been given such a singular name, 'Chedorlaomer,' which was abbreviated and corrupted into the short 'Lomer,' and investigators were led to error in the difference of these names. We have been furnished some very interesting information in regard to the ancestry of this remarkable man, and find that the family is widespread, and, in many instances, some of its descendants have held high social rank. John Griffin came from England about the year 1640, and first settled with a party of emigrants in Dorchester, Conn., and afterward moved to Windsor, in the same State. He stopped some time in Windsor; but, hearing that there was plenty of pine timber over the mountains west, he started on an excursion in that direction, passing through the gorge at Loupville, and settled down on the north bank of Tuxnus River, in a region which the Indians called Massawa, where he established a manufactory of pitch, tar and turpentine. The Indians burnt up his works, and, to settle with him, gave him a deed of the land in that region. He gave away several tracts of land to settlers from Windsor, but reserved for himself a tract three miles square, which was for many years known as 'Griffin's Lordship.' In the year 1647, John Griffin married Anna Bancroft, and by her had six daughters and four sons. The names of the sons were John, Thomas, Ephraim and Nathaniel. The last, Nathaniel, was the youngest, and was born May 31, 1693. This Nathaniel had a son Nathaniel, who was the father of Chedorlaomer, the subject of this sketch. This finishes the genealogical tale of the first ancestors of Lomer Griffin from the time they left England.

"As already stated, Lomer was born in that part of the village of Simsbury which is now known as Granby, Conn., on the 22d of April, 1772. No surprising events marked his boy-



hood days. His father was a sort of farmer, and the boy's life passed along as farmers' boys' lives usually do. The first event in the life of Lomer Griffin, of which we have any information and record, is his marriage to Miss Charity Moore, which occurred April 15, 1797, from which union there were seven children, namely, Parley, Willis, Ralzmond, Andrew, Thomas, Lydia and Harlow, of whom three, settled in Harrisville Township, are still alive. Another event which has lately been brought prominently before the public, as, in some respects, proving his age, was his enlistment in the Connecticut militia company commanded by one Capt. Moses Heyden, in August, 1813, and serving until October of the same year. On the strength of this enlistment, he, in the year 1850, made an application to the Government for bounty land, which stands recorded in the Pension Office at Washington, and was recently brought to light by another application made by Mr. Griffin last spring for the same service in the militia company, under an act of Congress passed last winter, giving a pension to soldiers of 1812. Mr. Griffin's application was at once made special, on account of the extreme age of the applicant, and his claim was granted. He has been drawing a pension since last spring, and was the oldest pensioner on the list in the Government offices. In the beginning of the year 1818, early in the month of January, Lomer Griffin, who had by that time become the proud and happy father of five children, collected his family treasures about him, loaded a large box on bob-sled runners, drawn by a pair of oxen, and moved out West. During the latter part of March, he arrived in Harrisville Township, and at once went to work and put up a rude log cabin on a part of the Harris farm, two miles north of Lodi, which is now known as the Hoag farm. The rest of this man's life is given in the history of the township in which he lived to the day of his death, taking a lively interest in its affairs. During

the last five years of his life, he became a celebrity, talked about the world over as the American Centenarian."

Jeremiah Higbee, for a number of years a resident in Lodi, during the earlier existence of the Harrisville Settlement, exerted a commanding and wide-felt influence in its business and civil affairs. He was a man deeply interested in the social and religious movements that were propagated during his life in Lodi. He removed to Cleveland in 1858, and there became the founder of one of the most prosperous business establishments in that city. He died in the fall of 1878.

An active part was played by several of the Harrisville people in the anti-slavery movements in the North, during the two decades preceding the war of the Rebellion. Quite prominent in this matter, stood Uncle Timothy Burr, who then lived in the large brick building west of the village of Lodi, and now occupied by Mr. E. W. Minns. He, with a number of his neighbors, was in accord with the sentiments of the Abolition party that was manifesting itself throughout the North; and they together made their best endeavors to help the cause. The Burr House, near Lodi, became a famous station on the "underground railroad," on which the fugitive slaves who had escaped their masters in the South, were transported during the night to places of safety in the Northern States and Canada. Numbers of the colored people, who had left their shackles of bondage in the South, came to the Burr House and there found shelter, protection and food. Oftentimes there were ten and fifteen negroes secreted in the house, and some of them remained for days. Most of them traveled from there on to Oberlin and other points of safety. Laura, the wife of Mr. Burr, and Rachel Norton, a young girl who then lived with them, and is now the wife of E. W. Minns, nobly assisted in giving succor to the fleeing slaves.

The industrial and commercial life of Harris-





ville Township commenced with its first colonization. As a stripling boy of sixteen or eighteen years, James Redfield opened up a traffic in wolf hides, and, by his shrewd energy and industry, earned a good many dollars through the reward given by the State of Ohio for wolves killed. It is said that in a period of several years, he killed as many as 125 of these beasts. He captured and killed them in a systematic, business-like manner. At one time, he traveled to a settlement some twenty miles distant, in Wayne County, and bought an old, decrepit horse of which he had heard, for \$2. He brought the horse back to Harrisville and led it out into the thick woods and shot it. He set his traps on the dead carcass, and, in a short time, captured as many as fifteen wolves. Aside from the capturing and killing of wolves, the young pioneer early devoted his attention to other industrial pursuits. Among the first was the establishment of an ashery for the production of "black salts." This he carried to Elyria and exchanged for merchandise, which he disposed of to advantage in the home settlement. He was soon joined in the enterprise by Reuben Chapman, forming, in 1826, a partnership, and opening up a small village store.

Another store, with an assortment of general merchandise, was opened in the year 1828 in the center of the village, by Barker & Siza. A few years later, another country store was added to the business world of the Harrisville settlement, by Archibald Miles and Charles R. Deming. This made three stores, and the country trade naturally drifted into the settlement. The store buildings were small, and the stock of goods rather limited, yet sufficiently large for the immediate wants of the early settlers.

The immediate interests of the people of the township are agricultural. The desire of the American farmer is to excel. This is manifested in agricultural fairs held all over this broad land. Harrisville had its fair at an early day. The first exhibition of farm products and

stock was quite limited, and conducted in an informal way. A few head of farm animals were shown on the green, and products were exhibited in the village tavern. This occurred for two or three seasons, and some years after an agricultural society entitled the Harrisville Agricultural Society, was organized in the summer of 1859. The following were chosen a board of officers, at the first meeting of the society, held on the 15th of September of the same year: E. H. Sibley, President; H. Selders, Treasurer; N. Harris, Secretary; and Lyman Mihills, Dyer Strong, T. G. Loomis, H. Selders and Isaac Rogers as Board of Trustees. The first fair was held on the Redfield farm one-half mile east of Lodi, on October 25 and 26, of 1859. It was a grand success for the first exhibition. Two more fairs were held in the following years,—the last being a complete failure on account of the inclemency of the weather. The society then died out, and the leading farmers of the township have joined the County Agricultural Society of Medina.

Harrisville was established as a post office in 1834. The first mail line was run by James Redfield, who had a Government contract to carry the United States mails from Wooster to Elyria, by way of Harrisville, Spencer, Pennfield and Turner's Mills. The mail was carried twice a week. There is no authentic record to show when and at whose suggestion the name of the post office was changed to Lodi. There is now a tri-weekly mail passing from Burbank, on the N. Y., P. & O. R. R., to Belden, on the C., T., V. & W. R. R.

The population statistics of the township since its earliest settlement, are slightly suggestive of the different changes that have passed over it since its civil existence. In 1818, at an enumeration taken by the State of Ohio, the population numbered 231. This number rapidly augmented, until, by 1850, the United States census returns exhibited a total population of 1,477 persons. In 1860, this





number had decreased to 1,226. and, in 1870, there were only 1,182 persons living in the township. The United States census returns for 1880, show that there are 1,382 persons, and 197 farms in the township.

Lodi is an unincorporated village of 439 inhabitants. The town is located just one-half mile east of the geographical center of the township, at the northern extremity of the Harrisville swamp. The East Branch River skirts the town on the north, while gently rising slopes extend to the east and north. The first settlement of the township was made right near the center of the village, and from that day it has formed the nucleus of the township. The first stores were built at this center. A tavern was erected there at a very early day by Orrin Chapman. In the spring of 1818, William Barnes came from the East, after having stopped in Cleveland and in Portage County for a short time, into the little settlement in Harrisville Township, and located at Lodi. With his coming, the industrial interests of the colony commenced. He had his projects ripe and ready for execution soon after his arrival. The first was the construction of a dam up the "gully," on the East Branch River, and then, running a race-course for water-power down into the settlement. A grist-mill was put up, to which, a few years after, a distillery was added, and, later, a carding-mill. A number of other additions were made to this building, and, in the course of time, it has been used for various purposes. From 1870 to 1873, it served as a cheese-factory. Mr. Jeremiah Higbee built a large store-building, and opened up a local mercantile business in Lodi in the year 1835, on an extensive scale. The structure is to-day intact and serving the purpose for which it was originally erected. The spacious and commodious room caused the people to wonder at the time it was erected, and they all looked with astonishment upon the advancement that was being

made in the commercial affairs of the town. This soon became the great village store, and, when Harrisville was set apart as a post office, in the year 1835, the office was located in this building, with Mr. Higbee as Postmaster. This store was for many years the center of home trade in the country about. Another business structure, somewhat on the style of Mr. Higbee's, was erected in the "forties," on the site where now stands the large brick block owned by H. Ainsworth. Aside from a storeroom, it contained several shops for trades-people. Business was carried on here by the Ainsworth Brothers. This opened up a healthy competition, and made business lively in Lodi. This building, with all its contents, was destroyed by fire in the spring of 1858. The conflagration caused a great commotion among the people. It was on a Sunday morning, when nearly all of the inhabitants of the village were attending divine service, that the fire broke out. It had its origin from a defective flue. The entire building, with storeroom and stock, harness, tailor and shoe shops, and an adjacent dwelling, were consumed.

In 1859, the Harrisville Masonic Lodge, in connection with a Masonic Hall, built a large store building on the south side of the public square in Lodi. The room was occupied by J. H. Warren as a hardware store for several years. In May, 1870, it burned down, with all of its contents, caused by the explosion of a lamp.

James Richey came up from Wooster in 1834, and built a woolen factory and carding-mill on the Little Killbuck River, two miles south of Lodi. This was, at a later date, owned and used by James Moore for a number of years, until the progress of the country left no demand for this business, when the small factory buildings became dilapidated, and all traces of it have since entirely disappeared. An iron foundry, for the making of agricultural implements, was established a few years before



the late war, by Mr. Joseph Warren. It has remained in successful operation, though it has undergone a number of changes in the proprietorship. The most notable factory in Harrisville Township to-day, is the wood-turning establishment owned and controlled by A. B. Taylor. A considerable force of hands is employed, and various articles of manufacture are turned out. In 1868, a large grist and saw mill was removed from Penfield, Ohio, and erected south of the center of the village. The Snow Flake Flouring Mill was built in 1875, adjacent to the old cheese-factory, and where, fifty years ago, the first flouring-mill in Medina County had been put up.

The Crawford Cheese Factory, built two miles west of Lodi, by Christ Albert, was put in operation in the year 1876, under control of the Crawford Cheese Company, embracing the well-known cheese firm of Horr, Warner & Co., of Wellington, Joseph Crawford and Christ Albert, each one of whom owns a third share in the company.

The most prominent business building in Lodi now is the brick block built and owned by Mr. Henry Ainsworth. It contains several large saleroms, warerooms, private offices, public halls, etc. It was completed in 1866.

The new Masonic Block also claims attention by the elegance and spaciousness of interior, and its adaptability for mercantile business. An unusual prominence was given to the commercial affairs of Lodi, when, in 1863, the organization of a National Bank was effected. The organization took place on the 7th of August, 1863, and the original stockholders were Joseph Harris, W. W. Prentice, H. Ainsworth, John Taylor, William Walcott, H. Sellers, Asa Farnum, Leonard Tuttle, J. Higbee, J. N. Holmes, Josiah Nafzker and L. A. Shepard. The first officers were W. W. Prentice, President, and H. Ainsworth, Cashier. The former died some years after the organization, and John Taylor was chosen in his place. The

bank was known as "The First National Bank" of Lodi. On the 11th of January, 1876, the company went into voluntary liquidation, and its affairs were closed up. A private banking business has since been carried on by H. Ainsworth, in Lodi.

Various and persistent efforts have been made by the people of Lodi, to have a line of railway pass through the town. So far, the attempts have been futile in the completion of an iron highway. Numerous surveys have been run through the township from east to west and north to south. The first railroad agitation in Lodi commenced when projects were set afoot by capitalists of Northern and Central Ohio, to have a railroad built between Cleveland and Columbus. A line of survey was run through Harrisville, passing one-half mile west of Lodi. Considerable stock was subscribed by the citizens of the township for this project, and Jeremiah Higbee was appointed and acted as one of the directors of the projected road. Through the efforts of Alfred Kelley, a wealthy quarry man at Berea, the road was finally built and finished in 1851 through Berea, on to its southern terminus, passing about twenty miles west of Harrisville. There was no more railroad talk in the settlement until the year 1871, when it again commenced in earnest. The Black River road, running north and south, was the first project which was incorporated under the name of the Wooster & Muskingum Valley Railroad. Harrisville subscribed \$30,000 for the building of this road. Nothing has ever come of this road, except the establishment of lines of surveys. The next railroad project was the Wheeling & Lake Erie line, and intended to run from Wheeling, W. Va., to Toledo, in the northwest corner of the State. Harrisville subscribed \$48,000 to this line. Henry Ainsworth was made one of the directors. Work commenced on this road, in the township, in the fall of 1874, and three or four miles were graded, and





then, from several causes, work was abandoned until 1877, when another spurt was made, and a few more miles graded, the effort then being to construct it as a narrow-gauge railroad. This also failed. Then work again commenced in the fall of 1880, Harrisville subscribing \$5,000 of additional stock. The grading in the township for this road is now completed, and the prospects are of the decided indication that the road will be completed in the near future. The Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, from Pittsburgh to Chicago, has a line of survey established through the township, and strong hopes are entertained by its people that connection will be made on this line with the branches of this great railroad enterprise.

The commercial and financial convulsions of 1837 and 1857 passed through the country without any visible material effect upon the interest of the people of Harrisville. The panic of 1873 was quite different. The village just then, in the years following the war, had reached the heyday of its prosperity. With the collapse of the banking house of Jay Cook & Co., and the failure of the Northern Pacific, \$200,000, the money invested by citizens of Harrisville, was swept away. Business and manufacture commenced to stagnate; other business failures in Ashland, Akron and Wooster followed, and a number of thousands of dollars that had been invested by Harrisville people, were lost.

The darkest days in the annals of the town are those in 1864, when the small-pox broke out in Lodi, in the spring of that year, and made the fair town look desolate and forsaken for a number of months. The disease was brought into town by two tramp soldiers, who had stopped for a night's lodging at the village hotel, then kept by S. L. Stringham. In a few days the infectious contagion broke out and laid the inmates of the hotel prostrate. The hotel became, by necessity, a pest-house, and was isolated from the rest of the village, and

held under quarantine. The disease died out after several months' ravages, and after exacting a number of victims.

The wave of patriotism that electrified the North in the spring of 1861, struck the Harrisville settlement in the month of April of the same year. The news of the firing on Fort Sumter had aroused the people, and it had arrived in Lodi. The call of President Lincoln for troops to suppress the rebellion had been issued; it caused intense excitement in Harrisville; a war meeting was held in the Congregational Church at Lodi; the house was densely packed with anxious people; stirring and patriotic addresses were made by a number present. A few days later, half a dozen of the young men of the town started to enlist in the war; they enlisted in the Eighth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, which was then in course of formation in Cleveland. In September of the same year, a contingent of fifteen more left their homes to fight for the Union. Harrisville furnished about 100 men to the armies of the North. F. R. Loomis, J. C. Bacon, W. M. Bacon, S. W. DeWitt, C. C. Eldred, W. F. Ford and J. H. Green, were the boys who answered to the first call to arms.

The Harrisville Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, No. 137, was organized as a lodge on the 23d of October, 1846. For several years previous the question of formation had been agitated by the leading citizens of Harrisville, and meetings under a charter of dispensation had been held. It was on this day that a charter was granted them. It reads as follows:

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

We, the Grand Lodge of the Most Ancient and Honorable Society of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Ohio, convened in the city of Dayton; whereas, a petition has been presented to us from Joseph Hildreth, James S. Redfield and Benjamin Kidder, all Free and Accepted Master Masons, stating that they have heretofore assembled together under a warrant of dispensation from the Most Worshipful Grand Master; they therefore pray for a charter extending and con-



firming unto them the rights and privileges of a regularly constituted lodge of Master Masons; and whereas, the aforesaid petitioners having passed a proper term of probation and exhibited to this Grand Lodge satisfactory evidence that they have conducted business of Masonry agreeably to the original design:

*Now, therefore, be it known,* That we, the Grand Lodge aforesaid, reposing special trust and confidence in the integrity and well-known attachment of the aforesaid petitioners to the sublime principles of Masonry as originally taught, and earnestly believing that the true interests of the institution will be promoted by granting the prayer of said petitioners, have constituted and appointed, and do by these presents constitute and appoint them, the said Joseph Hildreth, James S. Redfield, M. Hoag, and their associates, a regular and constitutional Lodge of Master Masons, by the name, style or title of Harrisville Lodge, No. 137, and we do hereby appoint Brother Joseph Hildreth First Master; Brother Calvin Holt, First Senior Warden, and Brother Hammer Palmer, First Junior Warden; hereby giving and granting unto them and their successors full power and authority to assemble together on all proper and lawful occasions as a legal lodge within the town of Lodi and State aforesaid; to initiate good men and true who may apply to be made acquainted with the sublime principles of the several degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, Master Mason, etc., etc.

*And furthermore,* We do hereby declare the precedence of the Harrisville Lodge in the Grand Lodge, constitutional brethren to attend their Grand Lodge, etc., etc.

*And furthermore,* We do hereby enjoin it upon them to conform in all their doings to the constitution, law and edicts of the Grand Lodge, and, in failure thereof, this charter and these powers herein granted are to cease and be of no further validity.

In testimony whereof, and by virtue of the high power and authority in us vested, have hereunto set our hands and caused the seal of the Grand Lodge to be affixed, at Dayton, the 23d day of October, 1846, era of Masonry 5846.

WILLIAM B. THRALL, M. W. G. M.

JOHN L. VATTIES, R. W. D. G. M.

M. Z. KREIDER, R. W. S. G. W.

J. N. BURR, R. W. J. G. W.

B. F. SMITH, R. W. G. Sec'y.

The first regular meeting under the new charter, was held on November 27, 1846, and the

following officers chosen for the ensuing year: Benjamin Kidder, W. M.; Calvin Holt, S. W.; James Redfield, J. W.; James B. Richards, Secretary; J. Yocum, S. D.; P. Holt, J. D., and W. S. Moore, Tiler. The installation of these officers took place a month later. In a few years, the lodge, through wise and judicious management, had sufficient funds at its disposal to erect a building, and apartments in it were furnished for a Masonic hall. Lodge-meetings were held in it until the spring of 1871, when it was destroyed by fire. The lodge then transferred its quarters into the large business block that had been erected by Mr. Ainsworth, and held its business sessions there for a number of years. A new Masonic hall was erected on the old site in the summer of 1878, and was finished for occupancy in April, 1879. The apartments used by the Masonic lodge in the upper story are elegantly furnished, and are probably the best lodge-rooms in the county. This is the only secret organization that has ever existed in Harrisville Township. It has steadily grown in affluence, and is now one of the wealthiest lodges in the State. It numbers among its members the best citizens of Harrisville Township, and holds the foremost position as a fraternal organization in Medina County. The different officers of the lodge for the year 1880 were Allan Pomeroy, Worshipful Master; John Warren, Senior Warden; A. A. Joline, Junior Warden; J. C. Van Orman, Secretary; N. Harris, Treasurer; J. H. Warren, Senior Deacon; A. H. Vanderhoof, Junior Deacon; S. L. Stringham, Tiler. Its regular monthly meetings are held on the Friday before the full moon.

Pawnee is a post office, situated in Harrisville Township, three miles west of Lodi, in the western part, on the line of Homer Township. It was formerly known as Esselburn's Corners. There are about a dozen houses clustered together, and the inhabitants are all mostly Germans. In 1872, Louis Esselburn erected a





large store building—the largest in Medina County—at this point, and carried on an extensive trade. The property is now owned by D. B. Dudley. The hamlet was set apart as a post office in 1879, and is supplied with a tri-weekly mail from West Salem.

Crawford's Corners forms a small settlement in the southwestern part of the township. It is located about three miles from Lodi, and contains about seventy-five inhabitants. The first settlement was made in this vicinity by Josiah Perkins, in 1819. Several years later, Joseph Crawford moved with his family from Wayne County, and settled in this locality. He opened up a store, and also erected a tavern. People traveling from Cleveland to Columbus frequently stopped at his place. After him the settlement was named.

In the fall of 1816, the Rev. Mr. Bigelow, a circuit rider of the Methodist Church, whose station was in Kentucky, came into the Harrisville settlement while on his way from Cleveland to Columbus, and preached a sermon to the pioneers. He was accompanied by Mr. Harris as far as Wooster, on his way to the State Capital. The Rev. Royce Searl, Rector of St. Peter's Church, in Plymouth, Conn., preached a sermon in April, 1817, in the little log schoolhouse that had been put up that spring near the center of the town, on Timothy Burr's farm. Other ministers of different denominations came into the settlement about this time; among them, the Rev. Mr. Jones, a Baptist Minister, who was stationed at Wooster, and who held meetings at the different cabins in the settlement. This was the first religious life of the little colony.

The origin of church societies in Harrisville Township, dates back to the fall of 1817. Religious worship and devotional exercises had been held during and previous to that time in the little colony. It was on the 5th of October, 1817, that the first Christian Church was organized in Medina County in the log schoolhouse

in Harrisville Township. It was formed on the Congregational model of the Pilgrim Fathers. During the summer previous, there had been a revival among the settlers in the township, and all those who felt the need of salvation must be gathered into a church for their own safety, and that they might save others. On the 3d of October, all persons having a desire to form themselves into a church, met at the school-house, and gave the reason of their hope, and their views in uniting together as a church. The Rev. Luther Humphrey, settled in Geauga County, and Rev. Amasa Loomis, a home missionary from Connecticut, were the ministers on the occasion. The examination was completed on the 4th, and on the 5th twelve persons came forward and formed a church. Their names were Isaac Catlin, Eunice Catlin, Loammi Holcomb, Hannah Holcomb, Nathan Hall, Pemibri Hall, George Burr, Mehitable Burr, Cyrus Curtis, Russell Burr and Carolus Tuttle. On the 6th of October, 1817, the church voted to enter into connection with the Grand River Presbytery, according to their rules of practice, and, on the third of the following February, their delegate appeared in Presbytery at their meeting in Tallmadge.

There is nothing left on record to show what the confession of faith and covenant of the church was in these early days. No doubt, they were the same or similar to the other Congregational Churches on the Reserve, which were connected with Presbytery on the "accommodation plan." This plan was formed by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States in 1801, and was approved by most of the New England ministers. Its aim was to relieve the new settlements, composed of mixed populations drawn partly from New England and partly from other States, and so partly Presbyterian and partly Congregational. By uniting these elements for a time upon a fixed plan, they hoped to strengthen the weak church. It was conceived in a Christian





spirit, and no doubt for some years accomplished good. It was abrogated by the old-school branch of the Presbyterian Church in 1837, and, on the 31st of July, 1841, this church voted to withdraw their connection from Presbytery. They some time after joined with other Congregational Churches in conference, and now belong to the Medina County Conference.

In the early days of the township, an occasional sermon or a sacramental Sabbath service was obtained from a missionary traveling, or from some minister principally occupied in another settlement. At other times, meetings were held without preaching. In this way Revs. Treats, Simeon Woodruff, Caleb Pitkin, Joel Talrot, John Seward, Varnum Noyes, William Hanford, Mr. Fay and Alvan Coe assisted the infant church. Rev. T. H. Breck was the first stated minister of the church, but it does not appear how long he continued in charge. The Rev. Joseph Edwards was the next stated minister—he served but one year. This was in 1831. There is no record to show the names of the ministers who were stationed here during the time intervening from the first organization up to this date. In 1832, the Rev. J. McCrea commenced preaching, and continued the whole or part of two years. Rev. Joel Goodell preached in 1834, who was followed for several years by the Rev. Asaph Boutelle. The Rev. B. W. Higbee preached for seven months in 1839. The Rev. Alvan Ingersoll commenced a three years' service in 1840. Rev. J. H. Baldwin then served the church for a year. In 1844, November 30, A. N. McConoughey came, and left in 1847. He was succeeded by Rev. Moses Longley, who was Pastor for the year. Then came A. J. Drake, who preached about four years from 1850. From 1855 to 1865, the pulpit of the church was filled for different periods by T. H. Delamater, Q. M. Bosworth, William Russell and Rev. J. N. Whipple, who died in Lodi on the 29th of De-

cember, 1865. He was followed by the Rev. James Gray, who continued for a year, and was then succeeded by the Rev. S. F. Porter. After the resignation of Mr. Porter, the Rev. A. H. Robbins became Pastor of the church, and remained such for six years, when he was succeeded by the Rev. L. Donaldson.

The first Clerk of the church, Nathan Hall, was appointed October 6, 1817. Isaac Catlin, was appointed Aug. 29, 1822; James Rogers, May 10, 1836; Milo Loomis, March 30, 1839; Uriel T. Burr, April 29, 1841; R. Hunter, December 25, 1852; and H. S. Chapman, the present incumbent, March 25, 1864. The church was incorporated on February 14, 1840. The act of incorporation reads as follows:

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio*, That George Burr, Isaac Catlin, Justus Burr, James Rogers, Augustus Phelps, Milo Loomis, William Converse and their associates and successors be, and they are hereby created a body corporate and politic, by the name of the First Congregational Society of Harrisville, in Medina County, and as such shall be entitled to all rights, privileges and immunities granted by, and shall be subject to all the restrictions of an act entitled, "An act in relation to incorporated religious societies," passed on the 5th of March, 1836.

SEC. 2. That said society shall give ten days' notice, by posting up advertisements in three of the most public places in the township of Harrisville, in said county, of their first meeting under this act.

THOMAS J. BUCHANAN,  
*Speaker H. of R.*  
WILLIAM McLAUGHLIN,  
*Speaker of the Senate.*

The meetings of the church were continued in the log schoolhouse, where it had been formed, until the same was destroyed by fire a few years later. The burnt schoolhouse was replaced by a hewed-log town and school house, where meetings of this society were also held. Sometime in 1828, the congregation built for themselves a log meeting house, 24x30 feet, one story high. It was altogether primitive, both in structure and the furniture within—slab, benches, rough board pulpit, etc. The building



at present used by the society was erected in 1843. It was an enterprise not undertaken by the church, but by Mr. Milo Loomis, assisted by Mr. Jeremiah Higbee. After finishing the house, they sold the pews as best they could for payment. A semi-centennial was held in the church on October 7, 1867. One remarkable fact in connection with this church is, that it has not missed a single Sabbath service during its existence.

The record and origin of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Harrisville is not well known. Religious observances of the Sabbath Day were held by the Methodist ministers as early as 1818, but no organization was formed until several years later, and no record has been kept to show the date. At different times, services were held in the Cotrell Schoolhouse, located a mile and a half northwest of Lodi. In 1825, the Wesleyans and Methodists joined with other denominations, and helped build, with the township, the two-story town and school house on the site of the first log schoolhouse, which had burned down, and there, in the upper story, they continued union worship for a number of years.

During 1846, the first Methodist Episcopal Church organization was formed in Harrisville. In 1847, the church list had a membership of seventy-five, and the Revs. Warner, Dodge, Hitchcock and others were the ministers in the following years. The present Methodist Episcopal Church edifice was erected and finished during the years from 1867 to 1869, and was dedicated by Bishop Clark, of Cincinnati, in August of that year. The church was in charge of the Rev. G. A. Reeder during this year. He was followed by the Revs. Mr. Pope, E. O. McIntyre, B. D. Jones, V. P. Lawrence and G. W. Huddleston. At a revival held in the church in the winter of 1878, there were seventy-two conversions, and there was considerable interest attending the revival meetings. It was the largest religious movement ever known

in Harrisville Township. The membership of the church now numbers 172.

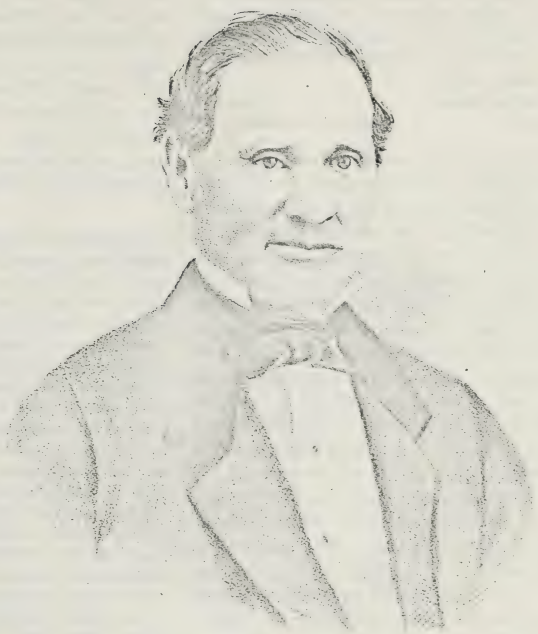
Another religious element which asserted itself in the earlier days of the settlement, and for several years maintained an organization, is the Universalist Church. For several years preceding the war of the rebellion, the Rev. Henry Gifford came at regular intervals and addressed the small congregations at the town hall, and at private residences. An effort was made in the fall of 1871, for a permanent organization of a Universalist Society. It was successful, and remained intact for several years. Meetings were held regularly every alternate Sabbath Day for religious worship, in the town hall. The incorporators, at this time, of the Lodi Universalist Society, were H. Ainsworth, Joseph Reynolds, A. Pomeroy, Mrs John Warren, N. E. Shaw, E. O. White and Calvin Holt. The Rev. N. Stacey Sage was the resident minister, and preached for three years, when he removed to the West. The regular Sabbath services were then discontinued, and the society gradually died out, only a few meetings having since been held by the society in Lodi. The Rev. H. F. Miller and Rev. Mrs. Danforth have both preached several sermons.

In the year 1840, a Presbyterian Society was formed in the western part of the township. The incorporators were John Douglas, William Finley, William Jeffreys, James Stevenson, Joseph Faulk and Skene Lowe. They held religious worship at the little log schoolhouse, near the corner, with the Rev. Varnum Noyes as minister for five years, and then disbanded and joined the Presbyterian Society at West Salem.

The first public instruction given in the township of Harrisville was in the spring of 1817, in a small log schoolhouse erected on the farm of Timothy Burr, now belonging to E. W. Minns, one-half mile west of the town of Lodi. Miss Diadema Churchill taught school during the summer of that year. In the winter follow-







*Albert Harris*



ing, and for several years after that, Mr. Timothy dealt instruction in the rudimentary branches of learning to the few children, numbering from four to eight at a time.

A few years later than this, another school-house was put up by the few settlers in the western part of the township, on the site where now one of the churches at Cherry Corners stands. Miss Harriet Hosford taught there a few terms, and also a Mr. George McQuay. A division of the township in school districts was made on the 10th of October, 1827, with the following boundaries, as given in the original ordinance made by the Township Trustees:

Commencing on the south line of the township, at the southeast corner of Lot No. 156, running from thence north on lot line, to the north corner of Lot 96; from thence west, on the line of the lots, to the West Branch of Black River; from thence northwardly, following said stream, to the outer road running east and west; from thence west, to the west line of the township. All that said part of said Township west and south of that line, shall constitute District No. 2. District No. 3, bounded by District No. 2 on the west, and a line running from the northeast corner of Lot 96, running east to the south, to the southeast corner of Lot 87; from thence north, to the northeast corner of Lot 68; from thence east, to the east line of said township; said district shall include all that part of the Township south and east of the said line not included in District No. 2. District No. 1 to contain all that part of the Township not included in the other two districts. The following are the names of all the householders in District No. 1: Seth Lewis, Michael Loomis, Alvin Loomis, Justus Burr, Carolus Tuttle, John Jason, Jr., Nedeiah Cass, John B. Utter, Charles Lewis, Lomer Griffin, Willis Griffin, Anson Loomis, James Rogers, Amos Kinney, Timothy Burr, Joseph Harris, Thomas Dunbar, Eli Utter, Michael Simcox, Cyrus Chapman, Henry K. Joline, Asher Loomis, Ira Kingsby, Elijah De Witt, Isaac Catlin, Diodema Birge, John Jason, Moses Parsons, Ralzemond Griffin, Parley F. Griffin, Richard West and Perrin Chapman. District No. 2—Lounmi Holcomb, Reuben Harrington, Daniel Delevan, Timothy Munson, Josiah Perkins, John Munson, Nathaniel Rogers, Leonard Chapman, Samuel R. Munson, David Sausman, Roger Phelps, William Rogers, Perez Rogers, Anson Marsh,

Jonathan Fitts and Thomas Holcomb. District No. 3—Thomas Russell, Russell Burr, Webster Holcomb, Jeremiah Hill, Elijah Bishop, Levi Chapman, Warren Johnson, Seeva Chapman, Orange Stoddart, Reuben Chapman, Isaae Rogers, Ebenezer Harris, William Burr, George Burr and Celina Young.

We, the undersigned, Trustees of Harrisville Township, certify the above to be a true description of school districts in said township, as laid off by us, and also a correct list of householders in each district.

Attested:

ANSON LOOMIS, *Clerk.*

JAMES ROGERS,

JONATHAN FITTS,  
*Trustees.*

An enumeration taken on the 4th of January, 1830, of the householders in the different school districts in the township showed eighty-one householders and one hundred and thirteen children between the ages of four and eighteen. Another subdivision of school districts was made on the 16th of May, 1835, adding two more and making five school districts. Two more districts were created by the township trustees, on the 15th of May, 1837, and on the 9th of October in the same year, Alvin Loomis, Joseph W. Rockwell and O. S. Kinney were appointed Directors of School District No. 1. An enumeration of the youth between the ages of four and twenty, in the several school districts in the township, taken on the 20th of October, 1838, showed 253 males, 253 females and a total of 506. This number had increased in 1840 to a total of 538, and in 1845 to 638. In 1855, the number of youth had decreased to a total of 484, and in 1860 there were only 447 children between the ages of four and twenty years in Harrisville Township. Twenty years later, in the fall of 1880, the total number of school children between the ages of six and twenty-one, in the entire township, including the special school district of Lodi, was 482, being, strange as it may seem, just 156 less than were enumerated in 1845.

By virtue of an act passed by the Ohio Legislature on April 9, 1867, a special school district was created in the winter of 1868, embrac-



ing the territory within the limits of the town of Lodi. At the first election, held in April following, H. Ainsworth, H. Selders and N. Harris were chosen a Board of Education for said district. Township District No. 8, on petition of the householders of said district, was merged into the special district of Lodi in April, 1872, and is now an incorporate part of the same. A few years previous to the separation of a special school district, the question of the establishment of a higher grade of school than that of a common district school had been extensively agitated among the people of Lodi, and consultation and private meetings had been held by its citizens, at various times, to encourage a movement of this kind. In the fall of 1867, the following call was issued and placarded on the streets of the town:

#### LET US BUILD THE HOUSE!

The advocates and Patrons of Education, within and adjacent to Harrisville Township, are hereby notified that a meeting will be held at Lodi, on Saturday evening, February 16, 1867, at 6 P. M., to devise measures for the erection of an academy in said town. All are respectfully invited to convene on that evening at the Congregational Church.

#### FRIENDS OF EDUCATION.

The people of the neighborhood at once responded to this call, and there was a large attendance and a great deal of enthusiasm manifested on the subject. Dr. M. Hoag was called to the chair, and spirited addresses and appeals were made by H. Ainsworth, Rev. Samuel F. Porter, T. G. Loomis, John Taylor, M. Hoag and others for the cause of education, and the erection of an academy building. A preamble and subscription list was offered by Mr. Ainsworth, and \$8,500 was put down at this meeting. Committees were appointed and an adjournment had for a week, when an organization was effected. H. Selders, S. C. Munson, H. Ainsworth, T. G. Loomis and W. W. Prentice were elected a board of trustees, with the following board of officers: President, W. W.

Prentice; Vice President, John Taylor; Secretary, F. R. Loomis; Treasurer, Henry Ainsworth. The total stock had been placed at 200 shares of \$100 each, all of which were taken in less than a month's time; there were sixty-three original stockholders. The project had so far advanced by the first of May that the selection of a site was made, and the proposals for a building given out. On the 5th of June, 1865, the first assessment of 10 per cent was made, and the ground was broken in the "Orchard" lot, within the town, for a large academy building, which was completed in the spring of 1871. The first academy school year opened the next fall with Prof. J. N. Haskins as Principal. There was a very large attendance of scholars, which increased during the next year, and the school bid fair to become a prosperous and successful institution. A Boarding Hall, large enough to accommodate 120 student boarders, was erected south of the Academy during the first year. At the fourth annual meeting of the stockholders, held on April 5, 1873, the following proposition was submitted to the voters: "Shall the trustees create an indebtedness sufficient to complete the building, and inclose grounds?" which was adopted by a vote of 118 for, to 12 against. The success of the school continued for a few years, and the people of Lodi felt gratified and encouraged. Then came the panic of 1873, with its assessments on the capital stock of the academy association to meet contingent expenses. Prof. Haskins resigned on account of failing health, and the attendance of the school grew less. Prof. H. N. Miller, a Universalist minister, took charge of the school and conducted it in a very able manner for three years. After that the Rev. Mr. McIntyre and Prof. W. R. Grannis took control of the school until the spring of 1878, when the school was closed for an indefinite time. One or two private select schools were held in the building after that. In April, 1879, the question of purchas-





ing the academy building and using it for a union school was submitted to the voters of Lodi Special School District, and carried with an overwhelming majority. John Warren, T. G. Loomis and E. W. Minus were elected Directors of the district at the same election.

The building, which had originally cost \$25,000, was bought for \$5,000. It is one of the finest structures for school purposes in Ohio. The public schools opened in it on the 2d of September, 1879, with S. Thomas as Superintendent.

### CHAPTER XIII.

#### YORK TOWNSHIP—DESCRIPTIVE—COMING OF SETTLERS—PROGRESS OF IMPROVEMENTS—UNDERGROUND RAILROAD—MANNERS AND MORALS.

IT often occurs within the experience of the historical writer, that, when any section of country was first settled, some portions were cleared and inhabited a quarter of a century before other portions removed but a few miles distant. Owing to some natural feature which unfitted the land for occupancy in early years, no improvements were made; and some of the finest farms in the county have been cleared and subjected to cultivation within comparatively late years. Following the natural instincts of human life, the pioneer complacently selected what, in his judgment, was the finest land within the reach of his limited purse, for whatever object he had in view, whether agriculture, horticulture, stock-rearing, milling or mechanics. Its proximity to mills, stores, schoolhouses, churches, good water, quarries, etc., was an important item to be considered. If any or all of these were yet lacking, the settler chose a home where the configuration of the land and the natural surroundings gave promise that the farm would be favorably situated when the country became well settled. Sometimes, as was quite often the case, the settler arrived in the wilderness with more children than dollars, trusting that with the aid of those two valuable assistants—help and self-denial—he might at last secure a home where he could pass the remainder of his days in security and peace. "It is natural for man to indulge in the illusions of

hope," and what a rest it is from the dreary prospects that hang like the shadow of some impending calamity over the future. How precious to our happiness are the castles that we build! How sweet it is to let the imagination wander off into pleasing representations of future stages of life; and how universal and cherished is this phase of human character. It opens boundless fields of enjoyment as vivid as reality, and crowns desolate and desponding lives with the bright flowers of approaching happiness. When all the blessings from Pandora's box are fled, hope alone remains, a solace in the darkest hour of human life, to irradiate the future with the smiles of Divine promise and love, and to save man from despair at the approach of death. The pioneer, removed from the influences of human society, no doubt thought as did Alexander Selkirk:

"O Solitude! where are the charms  
That sages have seen in thy face?  
Better dwell in the midst of alarms,  
Than reign in this horrible place.

"I'm out of humanity's reach;  
I shall finish my journey alone;  
Never hear the sweet music of speech;  
I start at the sound of my own."

His only prospect for relief from anxieties and toil lay in his sturdy nature, and in his hope that "something better would turn up." The total avoidance of human society is a



cross that weighs heavily upon the heart as the years advance. In the seclusion of non-intercourse with fellow-men, the tendency of human nature is to revert from the standard of society in its present artificial character, and to renew the cast-off instincts and habits of barbarous man. Evolutionists insist that society is an *organic* growth or relation, and that it is neither the natural nor primitive condition of man. They assert, that, if the usages of society be partially relaxed or wholly avoided, the infallible result is a fatal retrogression to primitive conditions. This would place man back almost to the higher plane of brute capabilities. However, the pioneer had nothing of this nature to fear, as his isolation from social contact with his fellows was but temporary, from the obvious fact that thousands of settlers would locate near him in the course of a comparatively short time. This philosophical question was not the one which most perplexed the settler. His problem was something like this: "How in the world am I to feed and clothe this 'raft' of children?" That same question has staggered many a man not recognized in histories as a pioneer; and it may be added that many a husband and father never succeeded in reaching a correct solution. He could not look in a book as the school-boy does, and write the answer in its proper position on the slate. That esteemed privilege was denied him. The case must be met with honest and incessant toil, and no legerdemain could deceive the great Teacher looking down from above. Others in the school of life could solve the problem at a glance, and the prosperous condition of their children, the presence of a broad scholarship, and a lofty refinement in thought and act, attest the accuracy and practical value of their solution of the problem of social life. Pioneers belong to that division of humanity known as benefactors. Through countless denials and self-imposed hardships, through almost a lifetime of unceasing priva-

tions and perplexities, they founded the bright and happy homes of to-day, where education, religion, refinement, and all the luxuries of wealth, abound.

York Township remained as long unsettled as any other in the county. This was not because of a dearth or absence of natural attractions. The soil was as rich for agricultural purposes as that of any other; and the opening for settlers was promising, and gave assurance of future opulence to those who were saving and industrious. Settlers, like migratory birds, seek a common resort. They move in flocks (to continue the figure), and, at the end of a long journey, alight in the same neighborhood. It seems that no flock saw proper to alight in York until many years after several of the other townships had been visited. Adventurous birds, however, left the neighboring coverts, and attempted to build their nests and rear their young abroad. It thus came to pass that, prior to the appearance of the first permanent white settler in 1830, the township was the home of several wandering hunters and trappers, who served as an advance-guard to the advancing army of settlers. It is quite certain, that, soon after the war of 1812, one or more professional hunters resided in a small bark shanty, in the northeastern part, near the present site of Abbeyville. The dwelling was little better than a wigwam, and was permitted to fall into decay after one or two seasons of occupancy. This brings the reader down to the time when the first permanent settler located in the township; and, before entering upon the description of the first settlement, it will be proper to notice the physical features of this portion of the county.

York Township is five miles square, and is bounded north by Liverpool, east by Medina, south by La Fayette, and west by Litchfield. Like the remainder of the county, its surface is irregular, and is characterized by peculiarly shaped prominences, which, at a distance, ap-





pear to be the works of Mound-Builders, but which, upon closer inspection, prove to have been deposited by glacial action in times which antedate, by long periods of years, all recorded history. These prominences or hills, are usually composed of a coarse boulder clay, and large quantities of gravel of crystalline rock, granite, quartz, evidently of a foreign nature. The lower and more level portions, though comprising a large percentage of clay, are still thoroughly intermingled with a rich semi-sandy and semi-alluvial soil, giving great strength and permanence to its productiveness. The composite nature of the soil, and the proportion in which the composing elements are blended, assure a fertility that is unknown in sections of the State or county where a pure soil abounds. Such lands are fitted for a greater variety of crops, as each vegetable production can select from the soil that which is adapted to its permanent and most rapid growth and strength, while a pure soil, lacking as it does the elements necessary to the life of some plants, can support the growth of but few. The soil also has great strength, as is shown by the fact that the same crop can be raised year after year on the same piece of land, without decrease in quality or quantity produced. The land is good for grazing purposes, and for meadows of luxuriant grass. Considerable sand is displayed near Abbeyville, not only in small inland and isolated banks, but in strata along the abrupt banks of Rocky River. Excellent hard water is obtained in abundance, at depths varying from ten to forty feet. A few perpetual springs are found, and, if their location is near a public highway, troughs are prepared where horses may quench their thirst.

The township is well drained by numerous streams which flow in a northerly direction, and the waters of each finally reach Rocky River. The principal stream is Mallet Creek, named thus for the first white settler who lived

on its banks. It enters the township on the southern line, about a mile west of the center, and flows a little west of north until near the center, when it takes a course a little east of north, and finally leaves the township at very nearly the geographical center of the northern boundary. It is fed throughout its course by numerous affluents, which join it from either side. This whole system of drainage has sufficient fall to insure the contiguous bottom land from ever becoming marshy, and unfitted for the use of the husbandman. The stream and its branches have worn their way, in some places, many feet below the surrounding valley level, owing, no doubt, to the character of the soil. The northeastern corner is crossed by Rocky River, a stream which has worn its way deep into the underlying rock. Near the bridge at Abbeyville, perpendicular embankments of sandstone may be seen, rising abruptly from the water's edge, in some cases to the height of seventy feet. From the worn character of the perpendicular surface thus exposed, it seems reasonable to infer that the bed of the stream was once at the top of the embankment, and that through a long period of years it gradually descended to its present position. Mallet Creek and its branches drain almost or quite one-half of the township. The northeastern third is drained by three or more small "runs," which flow directly into Rocky River, near Abbeyville. There are no swamps of any note, although in early years the northern part was quite wet, and was covered with an almost impenetrable thicket, wherein wild animals sought refuge from pursuing hounds or hunters. In common with other portions of the county and State, York, in early years, was destitute of convenient roads, and it was only after the lapse of time that the incidental sticking in the mud, which attended each journey, could be avoided. The first road properly surveyed in the township was the Norwalk road, extending diagonally to York Cen-



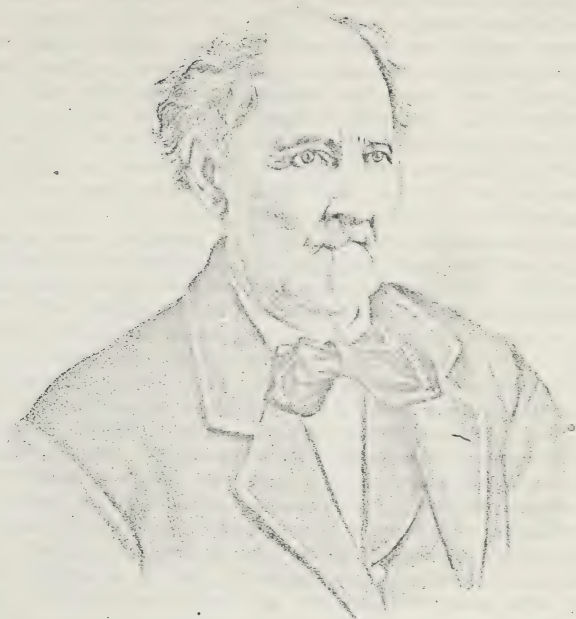
ter from Medina, thence directly westward. It was surveyed in 1830, and was laid out only to be avoided, as the passage of a few wagons so cut up the clay soil that drivers preferred to select their route through the woods near by. This procedure was only altered when the road had been sufficiently graded to turn off the water, instead of allowing it to remain in the ruts made by the wagons.

We come now to the time when the first settlers appeared in York. It being premised, that, inasmuch as portions of the county, contiguous to the township, had been first settled a score or more years earlier than 1830, and that the townships of Liverpool, Medina, La Fayette, were at that date quite thickly populated—it may appear strange that no settler had yet concluded to locate in York. One reason for this state of affairs was that the township was owned by speculators in the East, who charged so much for their land that it was practically thrown out of market. The land was owned in six tracts—five of them each a mile wide, and extending from the eastern boundary to within a mile of the western line, and the sixth, comprising a strip one mile wide, extending north and south across the western side. The tracts number from the south to the north, the one on the west being the sixth. No 1 was owned by a man named Chapman. It must not be understood that the price of the land was far above that in neighboring townships. The price asked varied from 25 cents to \$1 above the current rates, and, in the estimation of a man with but little money, this was an important consideration, and effectually prevented the sale of the land. In the year 1826, the following persons paid taxes on 14,137 acres of the land: Fanny Chapman, Elijah Hubbard, James Mather, Samuel Mather's heirs, Thomas Mather, Thomas Sill and William N. Sill. The land was valued at \$29,936, and the tax paid was \$295.62.

In the month of June, 1830, George Wilson,

of Monroe County, N. Y., came to the township, purchased a small tract of land on the branch road where Eli Hubbard now lives, erected a small dwelling, and immediately moved his family from Medina, where they had stopped until Mr. Wilson could build a house. This man was the first permanent settler. He was immediately followed by Levi Branch, Lawson Branch, Harvey Bruce, E. Munger, John Dunshee, Reuben Stickney, and Solomon Hubbard. These men came with their families to Medina in the month of October, 1830, and, while the families remained in the village, the men went to York, found their land which had been previously bought or traded for, erected their rough log houses, and returned to Medina for their families. Levi Branch was looked upon with envy by his fellow-settlers, as he had taken the trouble to bring from York State a small stove. This was properly adjusted in his cabin, and was looked upon by all visiting neighbors as a curiosity, and was spoken of so often throughout the neighborhood, that "Branch's stove" became almost a by-word. The cabin in which this "curiosity" was placed, and in which the family moved, was only half-finished, as but half of the roof was on, and the doors were yet to be manufactured. Blankets were hung up to serve the purpose of doors, temporarily, and Mr. Branch continued busily engaged in riving clapboard shingles to be placed on the half-finished roof. A rough floor had been hastily fitted in, designed to do duty until leisure moments would give Mr. Branch opportunity to construct a better one. The fact that settlers in the surrounding neighborhoods had attained a comparative degree of comfort, did not mitigate in the least the hardships and sufferings of the York settlers. They were compelled to pass through the same bitter school of experience. The size of the tracts of land purchased depended upon the means at the command of the settlers. Levi Branch bought





Arzu Pearson





567 acres, but his farm was larger than that of any of the other early settlers. All were located south or southeast of the center; and, within a few years, this portion of the township put on the outer garb of pioneer civilization. Cabins of various designs rested near the center of small clearings; the ring and echo of ax and rifle awoke reverberations on the distant hills and in the heavy forest; the "ding-dong" of cow-bells told where the herds were feeding; the barking dog betrayed the fact that a coon had been treed; and all the attendant features appeared which give to clearings in the forest the name "settlement."

For the next five years after the appearance of the settlers already mentioned, as many as thirty others located in the township and began clearing their land and cultivating the soil. The first thing to be secured was a garden, where potatoes and kindred vegetables could be raised. After this came the fields of wheat, dotted with hundreds of stumps, to avoid which, the reaper must use care. While the crop was growing, the settler was busily engaged in deadening the trees, and leveling them with the ground. At this point of the clearing process, a great deal of useless labor could be avoided by judicious management, guided by the light of experience. In some cases, all the timber on a certain piece of land was to be destroyed by fire. On such occasions, the chopper would select some central point, around which, for 300 or 400 feet, all the trees would be felled toward the center selected. They would lodge on the central tree, and remain standing until the latter was cut down, when all came thundering to the earth together. Here they would remain until dry and dead, when they were almost totally consumed by fire. At other times, a line, perhaps eighty rods or more in length, was laid out across a tract of land, and all the trees within 300 or 400 feet were felled toward this line, thus forming an enormous windrow. At the proper dis-

tance away, another line was established, and the process was repeated. In this manner, whole sections were often chopped in windrows, and, as soon as the trees were thoroughly dead and dry, fires were lighted over the entire area of fallen timber, and the men devoted their time and attention in preventing the fire from dying out, and in seeing that all the fallen material was destroyed. In the night-time, the fires thus lighted over half a farm, compared favorably with the prairie fires so well known in the West. In early years, a great deal of farm labor was done through the medium of "bees." Whole neighborhoods would assemble and accomplish in a short time what would perplex one man for months. A large share of the clearing done in York was accomplished in this manner, and all was the result of an interchange of labor. The men of a neighborhood would assemble and clear up the farms in rotation, and it is true, that a vast saving of time and labor resulted from these "bees," and it is often the case, from the peculiar nature of the work to be performed, that twenty men can accomplish in one day what one man cannot accomplish in twenty days. If the butt-cuts of trees were to be saved, the windrow process of clearing was often adopted, as in that case, the tops were crushed together, while the butts were free from troublesome branches. When one or more cuts were to be preserved on each tree, it was customary, also, to adopt the central process of clearing, and the center selected was usually the summit of some prominence, as in that case the logs could be rolled more easily out of the reach of the fire.

It is impossible to name all the settlers who came to York prior to 1835. Previous to their coming, they were notified, upon inquiry, that the excellent and well-traveled Norwalk Turnpike extended through the center of the township, and afforded an unparalleled outlet to market and mill. They were also informed that the township was crossed by the beautiful Mal-



let Creek, in whose clear waters thousands of speckled trout abounded. Thus, the most sanguine anticipations of the settlers were aroused, and all were anxious to view the bright land which destiny had selected for their home. Alas for the delusions of fancy! It was discovered that the informant had meant speckled *frogs*, instead of speckled trout, and the well-traveled turnpike proved to be a snare and a myth. It is related that R. M. Lampson, Sr., went with his wagon to Medina for a few bricks, and, on his return, though he had but 125, his wagon sank to the hub in the soil of the "celebrated Norwalk Turnpike." This enraged Mr. Lampson, whereupon he uttered some startling truths, in a peculiarly emphatic manner, respecting the famous turnpike and the meandering Mallet Creek. He and many others were for a long time singularly tender on the subjects of speckled trout and turnpikes. Like a celebrated lady, they refused to be comforted, because they were not—as their hopes had depicted. Time, at length, healed the wounds.

The township was organized and named in 1832. The name "York" was bestowed upon it, owing to the fact that nearly all the settlers came from York State, and, at their suggestion, the authorities created the township under that title, and ordered an election held at the residence of Levi Branch, on the 2d of April, 1832, for the purpose of electing the necessary officers and of completing the organization. On that day, twenty settlers (all then living in the township, with the exception of about five) assembled, and polled their first votes as citizens of York Township. It will thus be seen, that, from June, 1830, to the following April, about twenty-five settlers located in the township. This first election was held in Mr. Branch's barn, and, after a due amount of "wire-pulling" and "electioneering," the following officers were elected: Alexander Forbes, Justice of the Peace and (probably) Clerk; Philo Fenn, Treasurer; Levi Branch, Thomas

Brintnall and Sylvanus Thunn, Trustees. It was no uncommon occurrence, in pioneer times, to hold town meetings in barns and dwellings. This was rendered necessary from a lack of schoolhouses and town halls. It required but about six years from the time of the first settlement before the township was almost as densely populated as it is at present. It was during this period that the township sprang, like Minerva from the head of Jove, into vigorous and mature life. Industries of various kinds began to arise as abruptly, if not as grandly, as Aladdin's palace, and soon the wild farms of the forest were transformed into those of civilization. Hundreds of acres of fine timber were given to the flames, and the peaceful hum of busy human life was heard, where erst the howl of the wolf and the whoop of the savage resounded. The paths of the forest were opened to the light and heat of the sun; the ponds and marshes slowly disappeared; waving seas of wheat and corn appeared; roads were established and graded; stumps were uprooted and removed; fields became encircled with strong rail fences; domestic animals frequented the paths and feeding-grounds of wild ones; schoolhouses appeared, with their discipline and instruction; happy homes were created by the industry and genius of man; religious institutions, with their attendant blessings, arose; the pleasing and complex relations of social life took the place of savage councils and pow-wows; natural features, with artificial adornments, improved the wild figures of the forest; and the vast energy of a progressive and enlightened people transformed the wilderness into quiet hamlets and peaceful country homes.

When the township was first settled, deer, wolves and other wild animals had not wholly disappeared. These and others were yet seen at their favorite haunts, and were pursued and shot by those whose inclinations had a sporting tendency, and whose wants could be supplied





from the spoils of the chase. Alexander Forbes was perhaps the most skillful and successful hunter ever a resident of the township. He built his cabin on the diagonal road running from Medina to York Center, in the fall of 1830. He was a tall, powerfully built man, and, it is said, would kill an average of one hundred deer each season. Extravagant stories are told concerning his ability to bring in large quantities of game, and his superior marksmanship. He often went into the forest in the morning, and returned at night with forty or fifty squirrels, each having been killed by a bullet through its brain. It is related that on one occasion of about three weeks, he killed eight deer, on an average, per day. On another occasion, he started a herd of seven deer early in the morning, and continued following the same herd all day, occasionally shooting one, and at night all had fallen before his unerring rifle. These stories are not impossible, and they bear the evidences of truth. It is no wonder that such rapid destruction of game soon left the forest deserted. Wolves were a continual annoyance for many years, and it seemed almost a necessary result, that, when a valuable flock of sheep had been reared with no little attendant trouble, these blood-thirsty creatures must steal into the fold, and slaughter the whole flock. It is not probable that the owner, in viewing the field of death the next morning, passed many complimentary remarks on the act, or went about his daily task in an enviable frame of mind. It thus came to pass that the County Commissioners offered a bounty of several dollars for wolf-scalps, and so great was the push after the reward that the wolves found it best to depart for other localities. Since the disappearance of deer and wolves, coons and squirrels have been the principal "game."

Levi Branch owned the only team in the township during the winter of 1830-31, and passed the greater portion of his time in traveling to Wooster, Akron and other distant places

to procure supplies. He was a kind, benevolent Christian, and oddly built his cabin on that portion of his farm farthest removed from Medina. When asked why he did this, he replied, that it was done in order that, as he had the only team, he could have the pleasure of conveying all his neighbors living on the diagonal road, to church in Medina every Sunday morning. He was one of the most intelligent and prominent of the early settlers, and has many descendants living in the township.

In the spring of 1835, Alonzo Forbes and Anson Bellamy built a saw-mill on Mallet Creek, on the farm now owned by John B. Knapp. The mill was a sort of a shanty, constructed of lumber sawed before the building was erected. The saw was operated by water-power, and the mill was at first located on the bank of the stream; but it was found impossible to allow the building to remain there, as freshets were sure to damage the machinery, and, very likely, sweep away portions of the mill. It remained there, however, for several years of irregular operation, and prepared for the neighborhood a limited quantity of rough lumber. It changed owners several times, and was finally purchased by a Mr. Worden, who altered the arrangements materially. He built a dam back a quarter of a mile above the mill, and then, by means of a long, narrow race, obtained excellent water-power, without the danger of having his mill swept away by every freshet. The mill was enabled to operate some six months of the year, and turned out, in its time, quite a large quantity of lumber. It finally became unprofitable, was permitted to run down, and was not afterward re-continued. Mr. Zimri Cook says that the first saw-mill in the township was built in November, 1832, and located on Mallet Creek, on the farm now owned by Mrs. Yorks. It was built and operated some three or four years by Squire Drayton, who, at the expiration of that time, removed the machinery and permitted the mill-building to fall into ruin, from a lack of



patronage. A rude dam was constructed, and then, by means of a short race, a fair water-power was obtained. This mill, like most of the other early ones, was in danger of being swept away at every heavy rain, as it was insecurely built, and was erected below the limit of high-water mark. It was soon removed, but the machinery was put in running operation in another part of the State.

It was the custom, even after saw-mills were in active and profitable operation in the town-ship, for the settlers to erect log houses instead of frame ones, from lumber obtained at the mills. This was done, as less time and expense were required, and the buildings thus erected, though homelier, were warmer, more substantial, and would last longer.

It seems proper, in this connection, to give a description of the method of erecting log houses, "not," says an old settler, "for the enlightenment of the present generation, but from a desire to hand down to posterity the primitive structures of pioneer times, as this mode of building will soon become obsolete and unknown."\* Proceeding with the description, he says: "If a cabin was to be built from the forest, a leader was chosen, who was always a man of experience, and dubbed 'captain.' The officer thus commissioned would classify the assembled settlers, and assign to each his respective duties, about as follows:

"1. He would select four of the most expert axmen as corner-men, whose duty it was to first clear off the site, square it, and place a boulder at each corner, to build upon, after being duly leveled, then saddle and notch down the logs in good workmanlike order.

"2. He would assign a sufficient number of suitable men, to select, as near the site as possible, the best large-grown, straight-grained white-oak tree, for clap-boards, whose further duty was to fell it and cross-cut it into suitable lengths, split the cuts into square bolts, and

rive them with a frow. Another set of men were required to prepare puncheons for floors, doors, window-casings, and chimney-corner jambs, out of such timber as was best adapted for the purpose, such as oak, chestnut or ash, which, when properly selected, could be made of sufficient length and width to make good building lumber. The puncheons for the floor were placed upon sills, and supported in the middle by joists, after which the upper surface was carefully dressed by a skillful adz-man, who could make it almost as smooth as though it had been sawed and planed.

"3. He would select and detail such a number as seemed necessary, to cull out, as near the site as possible, straight, suitably sized, standing trees, and fell them, and chop them into requisite lengths, for the proposed structure, with teamsters to haul them in as they were prepared. To this force were added other teamsters, provided with rough wooden sleds, to haul in the clapboards, puncheons and other lumber of a similar nature. All the above having been carried into effect, the leader would take his station and direct men from his force, to prepare smooth skids, the necessary number of strong forks, with grape-vine or hickory withes around the prongs, to render them secure, and with two or three cross-sticks inserted through holes bored in the lower ends, to prevent the hands from slipping, and also to provide a sufficient number of handspikes of tough hickory, dog-wood or iron-wood, some four feet long, with ends shaved flat and smooth, to be used in rolling the logs to their position or upon the skids. All were under command of the leader, who was always selected because of his experience, skill and ability to secure the completion of the work in the shortest space of time. Stationed upon a prominent position, where all the stages of the work passed in review before his eye, he could direct his forces as systematically as a General does his troops on the field of battle. As the logs were hauled to

\*Judge Patrick, of Urbana, in Antrim's History.





the site and unloaded, the necessary number of men would be directed, either to roll the logs to the skids, or to pick them up on hand-spikes, and carry them there. Four corner-men were selected, who, from their experience and skill, could perform the best work, and one of these was assigned to each corner to notch and fit the logs as the walls of the house arose. The logs were shoved on the skids to their destined position, and here the expert corner-men would chamfer or bevel off the ends at a suitable angle, the work being done on each side of the log, so that the two beveled sides would meet in a point, upon which a notch in the transverse log destined to be placed above it, could rest. This operation was called saddling the logs, and required considerable skill to secure a close fit. The two end logs were placed in their positions first, and then the sills were selected and notched deeper than the other logs, in order that the floor, which was to rest upon them, might not be too far above the ground. It will thus be observed that the lower end of each log was deeply notched, and that the upper side of the same end, was chamfered into a ridge, upon which the transverse log next above it could rest. The corner-men, at the same log, would work together, as each would notch or chamfer at the same time as the other.

"After the four foundation logs had been properly notched and saddled, and placed in a firm position in the shape of a square, the next thing was to cut in the sills the slots to receive the sleepers, though this was often postponed until after the building was erected. These sleepers were selected with the view of their being intended to support the floor, and, after being hewed off to the proper shape and size at the end, were placed in their positions in the slots or gains.

"This being done, the rapid erection of the walls continued, the corner-men using their loosely-held axes to insure the perpendicularity of the corners. When the walls became quite

high, the skids, with one end resting on the ground and the other on the top of the walls, were used as a rude tramway, upon which the logs could be moved to their positions. The logs would be slid up the skids as far as possible with the hand-spikes, after which strong men, with the above-described forks, would take the logs, and, with the end well down toward the ground, would raise the latter to their position on the wall. It sometimes happened that the forks were not sufficiently strong to support the logs, in which case they split, thus allowing the logs to slide down the skids upon the men. Occasional deaths were caused by not taking the proper precaution to have the prongs strong enough. Thus the building progressed until the required height was reached—all being done with precise uniformity and celerity. At last the eave-bearers would be raised upon the two ends of the building. These projected some twenty inches beyond the wall, and would be notched down and saddled back far enough to receive the timbers hereafter described. Then the butting-pole for the back of the cabin would be shoved up to the front corner-men and rolled to the back eave, and notched down upon the saddles, being allowed to project some fifteen inches beyond the outer surface of the wall. The first rib would be sent up in the same manner, and rolled back to a proper distance inside of the butting-pole, and notched down so as to give the pitch of the roof from the center of the pole to the top surface of said rib. In this manner, the corresponding timbers for the front of the cabin were placed. The first two gable-logs would be placed in notches cut into the ribs, and chamfered at the ends to suit the pitch of the roof. The remaining ribs and gable-logs being placed, the roof was then ready for the clapboards, which are laid down upon the ribs with the lower ends resting against the butting-poles, with small spaces between, which are top-covered so as to break joints. Knees of proper length are prepared at





each end, and are placed endwise against the butting-poles to hold the weight-poles in place, the latter being laid upon the roof-courers as nearly over the ribs as possible. In like manner, another course of clapboards is laid down with the lower ends resting against the weight-pole of the next lower course. In this manner the roof is completed."

This is the manner in which log houses were erected. It was usually the custom, however, for the owner to haul all the necessary logs and timbers before the workmen arrived, and even to cut and place in position upon the bowlders the four logs for the foundation. He also often rived out the clapboards with a frow, and prepared timbers for the floor and roof.

It was not long before schoolhouses and churches were erected in different parts of the township. Enterprises of various kinds were undertaken, and soon the citizens of York could boast of as fine schoolhouses, mills, etc., as any other portion of the county. The citizens were persevering in industry and stanch in integrity and moral worth, and the rising generation felt the impact of these influences, and grew into intelligent and moral people. During the days when Abolitionists arose all over the North to denounce, with ceaseless tongue, the wrongs of slavery, and especially what they deemed the infamous measures of the Fugitive Slave Law, the citizens of York were not wholly silent or inactive. They became satisfied that the measures of the law were totally wrong in the sight of man and God, and set themselves industriously to work to render the law practically inoperative by a constant evasion. As stated by Ephraim Lindley, of Brunswick, they were dissatisfied with being made slave-catchers without their consent, and resolved to abrogate the measures of the law so far as lay in their power. Wesley Hulet, then residing near Abbeyville, was one of the most active men in the township to assist runaway slaves to Canada. An underground railroad, with many branches, ex-

tended north and south across Ohio, and, while the main line lay near some well-traveled highway, and was traveled by those runaways who did not fear pursuit nor court concealment, the branches were much more secret, and were traversed by trembling men, women and children, upon whose heads a high reward was set, and whose safety from a punishment worse than death lay in their secret passage to the dominion of the British queen. One of these branches extended through York, and was, perhaps, traveled far more extensively than many of the main lines. It is stated on the authority of Mr. Lindley, who was one of the most active slave concealers and assistants in the county, and whose cabin was the next station north of that of Mr. Hulet, that the latter helped more than a score of runaways on their way North. Ansel Bowen, of York, was connected with the road, as were also Jonathan Hulet, of Brunswick; W. P. Stevens, also of Brunswick; William Castle, of Abbeyville, and Samuel Hale. It is stated by Mr. Lindley, that, on one occasion, Wesley Hulet, driving a wagon containing nine runaway slaves, stopped at the cabin of the former, and, after Mr. Lindley had fed the black people and furnished them with various articles of clothing, Mr. Hulet conveyed them on to the next station north, which was, perhaps, the cabin of W. P. Stevens. A huge negro, clothed in tatters and covered with scratches and wounds, presented himself one night at Lindley's cabin, and begged food, and the privilege of remaining there until morning. The request was willingly granted; but the negro, who had doubtless been pursued, and, in consequence, was distrustful of everybody, seemed to entertain misgivings as to the good faith of Mr. Lindley, and, when conducted to his bed for the night, asked the privilege of having the door locked, and of having possession of the key during the night. Whether he slept well or not, is not known; but, when he opened the door and came out to breakfast the



next morning, he told the family that he had had a dream, wherein it appeared that he was caught, at which point he awoke and was overjoyed to find that he was yet free and likely to reach Canada. It was afterward ascertained that he was closely pursued by his owner, but at last succeeded in eluding his pursuers and effecting his safe arrival across the lake. The point on the lake shore where the runaways were instructed to go, was at the mouth of Grand River. Here they were told to remain concealed until a certain hour on one or more days of the week, when a small steamer, coming from the Canada side, would approach the landing, whereupon the runaways were to hurry on board without ceremony or delay, and the vessel would convey them across the lake. It is said that men throughout the State furnished the money which paid the owner of the steamer for his trouble. This quiet place of boarding was selected because all the principal landings, such as at Cleveland, were thronged with disguised, watchful and irate owners, looking for their "cattle," and preparing to conduct them back to a condition worse than Egyptian bondage. It may be said that York Township did her share of violating the Fugitive Slave Law, and of assisting the weary runaways to gain their freedom.

In the year 1831, Levi Janes purchased 600 acres of land in the northeast part of the township, and, during the following autumn, erected his cabin, which was the first in the village of Abbeyville. In the winter of 1831-32, he employed Wesley Hulet, an experienced millwright, to built two mills on Rocky River, near the present site of the village, one for sawing lumber and the other for grinding grain. The country was quite new, and it was obvious that the combined enterprises were likely to meet with many discouragements and disasters; but the energy and foresight of Mr. Janes, often tested in the practical field of experience, soon placed the mills on a firm financial foundation,

and ere many years they afforded a satisfactory revenue to the owner. From some sources, and perhaps the most reliable ones, the report comes that the grist-mill was not erected until the summer of 1833. If the precise date of its erection is known, the writer has been unable to ascertain it, and its recovery from the gloom surrounding the past must be left to the succeeding township historian. At any rate, it was running in 1833, with a fair patronage for those days, but which, at present, would consign the mill to desertion and decay. The mills were about ten rods apart, and both were operated by means of a dam and race, through the medium of which a strong water-power was obtained. The dam was constructed a few rods above the upper mill, the composing elements being stone, timber, brush, etc., making a strong and substantial structure. The race was short and easily constructed, partly because of the presence of substantial material within a few rods, and partly because of the advantage taken of naturally favorable conditions. The saw was one of the up-and-down pattern, and was set in operation in a small frame building. Here for a number of years no small quantity of native lumber was turned out. As was almost universally the case in the rapidly improving State of Ohio, sawing was done either by the hundred, or a share of the logs was retained by the sawyer. The mill changed owners several times, and underwent a variety of alternating ups and downs for many years. Wesley Hulet was, for a number of years, the partner of Mr. Janes, with a half-interest in at least one of the mills. Janes had come from Montreal, Canada, and was well situated financially. The grist-mill, under his supervision, received a fair local patronage, and was a great accommodation to the surrounding neighborhood. His cabin was the first dwelling in the village, and his improvements, mills, store, etc., soon attracted others to the same neighborhood. It was through his influence and upon his land that the village was





finally laid out, and upon it was bestowed the given name of his wife—Abbey—with the French termination *villc*, meaning a small collection of houses. Mr. Hulet built the second cabin in the village a few weeks after the erection of that of Mr. Janes. He was the first millwright in the township. His connection with the underground railroad was previously mentioned. The third house was built by a blacksmith named Webster, soon after the erection of the other buildings. This man was not only the first blacksmith in the village, but the first in the township. It is stated, that, at the time of the coming of Mr. Webster to the village, he was almost hopelessly addicted to the use of liquor; but that, through the influence of Mr. Janes, he was restored to his normal condition. In the fall of 1832, Mr. Janes placed in one room of his house a few hundred dollars' worth of goods, and thus opened the first store in the township. He afterward increased the stock, and for a number of years did a thriving business selling dry goods, groceries, hardware, etc. It was through the influence of Mr. Janes that a post office was secured at the village, in about the year 1835. Mr. Batchelder, a carpenter, became the fourth resident of the village. Several industries sprang up in early years, among them being an ashery conducted by Messrs. Castle & Holcomb. The enterprise was established in 1834, and a considerable quantity of potash was manufactured, and conveyed to Cleveland and other large places. Abbeyville had an earlier start than the Center, though the latter has attained greater fame among the catalogue of villages.

Many important facts connected with the early history of York Center seem both unreliable and unattainable. There is a certainty, however, in a few things: The village had a start soon after Abbeyville; it gradually got the better of its elder rival; its future was firmly established when a station was located there. It is also true that it grew and prospered

through the years. Various enterprises have sprung up from time to time as the business energy of the place has increased. Perhaps the most extensive pursuit ever in the village, is the one conducted at present by J. R. Holcomb & Co. A brief description of the character and scope of the work in which these gentlemen are engaged will be found in the biographical department of this volume. Mr. Holcomb is the proprietor of an educational journal, which is highly regarded as a teacher's assistant, as is shown by its flattering circulation, not only in Ohio, but in neighboring, and even in distant, States. York Center compares very favorably with other township centers in the county.

No other portion of the county has better schools than York. Good average wages are paid teachers, and the impulse given to educational topics and interests by the presence of a live school journal, is shown in the substantial schoolhouses filled with bright scholars. It is always more or less difficult to ascertain the circumstances connected with the first school taught in a township, or rather, it is difficult to satisfy everybody that the correct facts have been discovered and given. However, the effort will now be made. The first school taught in the township was held during the winter of 1831, in one room of the residence of Levi Branch, the teacher being Theodore Branch, son of Levi. One room of the house, or a portion of one room, was furnished with a few rude seats and desks, and in this rustic place the educational history of York may be said to have begun. The teacher was a young man, and the school was his first, or among his first, efforts; but the ordeal was safely passed, with mutual benefit to teacher and scholars. The former received his pay by subscription, but the rates seem to have been forgotten. The first schoolhouse was a log structure, erected during the fall of 1832, on the farm now owned by Frank Burt. It was built by every man's turning out



on a given day and assisting until the work was finished. Theodore Branch was employed to teach the first term held in this house, and was paid by the month; but how much he received, or how the money was raised, are unmentioned or forgotten items. It is stated, upon the authority of Mr. Levi Gardner, that the first frame schoolhouse in the township was built at Abbeyville. Mr. Janes was the prime mover in its erection, although all in that neighborhood assisted. Miss Martha Branch was the first teacher in this house. In 1837 or thereabouts, Abbeyville "had reached the highest point in all its greatness." The village gave great promise at that day, as much so, perhaps, as any other village in the county, five years after its origin. It was in the last-mentioned year that an effort was made, mainly through the influence of Solomon F. Holcomb, to institute at Abbeyville either a branch of Oberlin College or an educational enterprise of a similar character. Prof. Amos Dresser, of Oberlin, came to Abbeyville for the purpose of taking the initiatory steps looking to the founding of a college. Quite a large class was obtained, and for a number of months the future of the little village was cloudless and serene. The principal object, or one of them, upon which the institution was founded, was a scheme to promote manual labor. The education to be furnished was industrial in its nature, a scheme, which, since that day, has developed the Industrial Universities and Agricultural Colleges scattered throughout the United States. But alas for Abbeyville! the attempt proved abortive, and the good-looking professor took his departure. It is probable that in 1840 every school district was supplied with a schoolhouse of some kind.

The following facts regarding the organization of the Methodist Church have been kindly handed us:

"As regards the organization of the Methodist Protestant Church at York Center, both the exact time of the formation of the society

and the name of the minister by whom the class was organized are not certainly known. A class was organized under the discipline of the Methodist Protestants in an old log schoolhouse which stood somewhere near the residence of Reuben Gardner. It is believed that the officiating minister was Rev. Samuel Clawson, and that the society was organized about the year 1841. During a part of the time that elapsed from 1841 to 1844, the society held prayer-meetings in a private house which is now the property of Mary Ford, and is located northwest from the center of the town. The society needing a house of worship, Richard Lampson, one of the charter members, donated a plot of ground; and the deed specified that, when the ground ceased to be used for the purposes of the Methodist Protestant Church, it should revert to the Lampson heirs. This plot of ground was located on the southwest corner of the center square. The deed was given in the year 1844, and a frame house was erected and dedicated to the worship of God about the same date. The following is a list of some who were what we may denominate "the first members" of this church (we have not sufficient knowledge to be able to distinguish the original or charter members from those who were not such); Richard and Sarah Lampson, Rufus and Anna Oliver, Samuel and Electa Smith, John A. and Margaret Hood, John and Albert Thomas, Amasa Taylor and wife, John Dunshee and wife, and Catharine Salmon. In the year 1877, the house of worship was regarded uncomfortable, and, as the class had increased in membership and wealth, an effort was made to erect a new house of worship. As the result of this successful effort, the present brick edifice was erected, at a cost of \$5,000. The principal donor was Mary Ford, and, in her honor, there is placed above the entrance the name by which the church is known—Mary's Chapel. The amount which this lady gave was \$3,000,





without which the house could not have been built at that time. The following persons entered into a partnership in 1865 for the purpose of buying a house and lot for a parsonage: Samuel Hale, Ansel Holcomb, Alvin Ford, C. C. Burt, L. R. Chamberlain and J. B. Knapp. These men paid \$1,000 for a house and lot located in the village. Alvin Ford finally became sole owner of this parsonage, and, after his death, the property was donated to the church. The class pays its Pastor \$500 per annum. The present membership is about seventy. The old house of worship is now used as a dwelling-house in the village. The following is a list of itinerant ministers and the date of their serving: John Barnet, 1855; without a pastor, 1856; G. W. McCuen, 1857-58; G. W. Bowman, 1859-60; James Williams, 1861-62; John McFarland, D. D., 1863-64; G. W. Hissey, 1865-66; James Williams, 1867-68; J. M. Langley, 1868-69-70; T. H. Scott, 1871-72; Joseph Hastings, 1873; J. D. Downey, 1874; Walter Moore, 1875-76-77; Mrs. E. S. Oliver, 1878; J. M. Woodward, 1879; William H. Guy, present Pastor."

On Saturday, the 27th of April, 1833, the Congregationalists met at the residence of R. M. Lampson, in York Center, for the purpose of organizing a church society. Twenty-six persons presented their names for membership, as follows: Ezra Brown, Esther Landers, Benjamin Landers, Lucy J. Landers, A. Stone, Levi Stone, Lucinda Bruce, Sarepta Hubbard, Polly Branch, Theodore Branch, Eunice Rowe, L. M. Jones, A. Landers, senior and junior, Esther M. Landers, Elizabeth Stone, William B. Stone, Amelia Stone, Keziah Gardner, Levi Branch, Cordelia Branch, Abial G. Rowe, Mary B. Landers and Abbey P. Jones. The ministers in charge of the occasion were Revs.

Barnes, of Medina, and Noyes, of Seville. On the 12th of February, 1839, arrangements were made to build a church. The funds were raised by subscription, one-half to be paid on or before the 1st of November, 1839, and the balance by six months later. The Trustees were authorized to begin the church as soon as \$300 was raised. The building was soon completed, and lasted many years. In April, 1834, at the first annual meeting of the society, the following church officers were elected: Levi Branch, E. D. Brown and Thomas Brintnall, Trustees; Hiram Lampson, Treasurer. By special act of the Ohio Legislature, the society was incorporated as follows:

*"Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio, That Thomas E. Millard, Levi Branch, Aseph Landers, together with such as are, or may hereafter be, associated with them, be, and the same are hereby, created a body corporate and politic by the name of the First Congregational Society of York Township, Medina County, Ohio."* The first church has been replaced by another and a better one. These are the only church societies in York Township, and it seems better thus to have fewer, and consequently larger, societies, than to have the church-going people parceled off, as it were, into classes that are too small to be self-sustaining, or, what is even worse, to struggle on against financial disasters through a sickly and uncomfortable life. As it is, the two churches are strong, well attended, not only by members, but by outsiders, who are called out by the zeal displayed and the interest surrounding the occasion. And then, again, people prefer joining a society that does not appear to be ready to die, if the term may be indulged in; but which seems to possess all the vigor of early years.





## CHAPTER XIV.\*

LITCHFIELD TOWNSHIP—HOLMES' LAND—FIRST SETTLEMENT—A FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION  
—A PUBLIC PARK—CHURCH ORGANIZATION—THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

THE first settlement on certain small portions of land in this township, was made by an Eastern land speculator, Judge Holmes, of Litchfield, Conn., in the years that immediately followed the war of 1812. Mr. Holmes was the sole owner of Litchfield Township at that time. Shortly after he had come into possession of this Western property, the owner had a survey taken of it, and divided it into lots. He caused an "opening" to be made in the southwest part of the township, on lots that were adjoining the "Smith road," a military highway that had been cut through here by the forces of Gen. Smith in the spring of 1812, and extends from Akron to Maumee City. Among the few different improvements that were started here by the Connecticut land-owner, was a little small log cabin, and an acre or so of cleared ground, set out with fruit-trees. No permanent settlement was made here, however, at that time. The anxieties throughout the country, caused by the war then in progress between the United States and England, and some Indian tribes in the West, kept people from accepting the inducements that were made by Judge Holmes to settlers to locate on his lands in Litchfield Township. The few acres of cleared lands remained tenantless for the time being, and no further progress in the opening-up and cultivation of lands in this locality was made. A few years after the survey and the first improvements of the Litchfield lands, which were, during this time, quite generally known as Holmestown, they again came into possession of the State of Connecticut. Under the supervision of a Mr. Beers, the land was thrown

into the market. It is not definitely known that any purchases of these lands were made for a number of years. Exchanges of tracts in the township may have been made between Eastern land speculators, at various times, but no settlement occurred in the territory until in the winter of 1830; and, from that date, the real progress of Litchfield Township makes its beginning.

Under the Land Company's survey, the territory now comprised in Litchfield Township was set apart as No. 3, Range 16. The geographical boundaries are marked on the north and west by Lorain County, on the south by Chatham, and on the east by York. The physical features of the township are not notable for any striking characteristics. The ground is generally level, and but a slight ridge runs northeast and southwest through the township, crossing the center road two miles east of the village of Litchfield. On this ridge are flowing wells, which afford large supplies of water throughout the year. The soil is a tough clay, and very much like that of Lorain County, which lies immediately west. There is a thickness of eight feet of clay above the Cuyahoga shale at the "Center."

A gas well of some note, originally bored for oil, is situated one mile and a half north, and one mile west of the Center. Oil was brought up by pumping, but not in any great amount. During the drilling, gas escaped with a clear, whistling sound, and when set on fire it blazed up from twenty to thirty feet, the outlet being eight inches wide.

A little stream, known as Center Creek, rises one and one-half miles southeast of the village, on the farm of Mr. Valentine Shank, and from

\* Contributed by Charles Neil.



there, winding its way northward to the center of the town, it takes its course west and flows into Lorain County, where it enters Black River. During the summer season, this rivulet is generally dry.

Among the legendary tales of the aborigines of North America, which have been told by hunters, trappers and the earliest frontiersmen in Northern Ohio, some of them relate to a part of the Wyandot tribe of Indians, who frequently located in Litchfield territory and thereabout, and had made this a part of their favorite hunting-grounds. Some of their wigwams were seen along Center Creek as late as 1822. For several years previous to that date, the Harrisville settlement on the south, and Liverpool on the north, had extended in numbers and size. With the coming of the white man, the wild game, which alone is the only wealth the Indian possesses, and which alone affords him a means of earthly sustenance, forsook the localities, and gradually diminished. The intrusion of the white settler and the absence of game caused the copper-colored sons of freedom to desert their lodges in this neighborhood and seek for a means of livelihood elsewhere. No traces of Indians were found by the first settlers of Litchfield Township.

We now come to the time when the first real advance in the settlement of the township was made. In the month of February, 1830, Cyrus Cook, with his wife and one child, arrived from Connecticut, and squatted on a tract of land in the north part of the township. He encountered the same difficulties that meet the settler of a new country. His first labors were the construction of a place of habitation. It was at first nothing more than a brush hut; the space between four small trees cleared out, with the trunks of small saplings placed horizontally in a fork from tree to tree, and a covering made of sticks and brush. The fireplace was by the side of the hut, in the open air; a tool chest, perchance, and a few short log

pieces, a few quilts and blankets, comprised the household furniture. This was the luxurious dwelling which the pioneer called his home. Mr. Cook did not remain alone very long in the new country. In the May following, there arrived quite a company of settlers from the little Nutmeg State along the "Sound." They were all Connecticut farmers, who had purchased and traded for tracts of land in Litchfield Township before they had left their homes in the East. These settlers were Jonathan Richards, with his wife and three children, Charles, Abigail and Julia; Thomas Wilcox and wife; George Wilcox and wife, with two children, Lucretia and Abigail; Eliphalet Howd and wife; Asabel Howd, with three children, Henry, Elizabeth and Caroline; and Judah Howd and George Olcott. A few weeks after the arrival of these people, Henry Howd, with his wife and three sons—Albert, John and James—from Sheffield, Mass., came into the settlement and located permanently. The Howd families settled together on a tract of several hundred acres of land, on the west side of the north-and-south center road, which had been established some years prior to the coming of these people, while Jonathan Richards located, with his family, on the opposite side of the road. These settlements were about one mile north of the center of the township. George Olcott settled near the center, and George and Thomas Wilcox, with their families, about one mile south.

In one respect, the first settlers of Litchfield were somewhat more fortunate than had been the pioneers of other sections of Medina County. There were already three roads established in the township, when the first settlers took possession of their lands, and commenced its cultivation. The "Smith Road," which has heretofore been referred to, was established in 1812, and runs through the southern part of the township from east to west. The "north-and-south" road, running from Elyria to Wooster,





had been cut out several years previous to the first settlements, and intersected at the township center with the "east and west," or Medina and Norwalk, which had been established several years before. This, as the appended abstract, taken from the Medina County road record, will show. It reads as follows:

FEBRUARY 8, 1820.

Frederick Hamlen had this day presented a petition, signed by himself and others, praying that a committee be granted to explore the ground beginning at the west line of the county of Medina, where a road laid from the county seat in Huron County intersects said line, thence southerly till it shall intersect the east-and-west center line of Township No. 3, Range 16, thence easterly, as near as the ground will admit, to the west line of Medina Township, or, if the committee think proper, from the center of Township No. 3, Range 15, in a southerly direction to the seat of justice of Medina County. The Commissioners, being satisfied that legal notice has been given, proceeded to appoint Isaac Barnes, Frederick Hamlen and James Moore a committee, and James Moore a surveyor. The third Monday in March, 1820, is fixed for commencing the duty of appointment.

The committee appointed for the purpose of building the described road, made a report to the Board of Commissioners of Medina County, on March 27, 1827, immediately after the establishment and completion of the road.

These roads were of great value to the settlers in Litchfield. It left them at once in easily accessible intercourse with the settlements at Medina, Harrisville and Grafton, on the north, and removed many difficulties that would otherwise have been their lot.

The pioneers were not idle during the first summer of their stay in the new township. Several very good-sized clearings were made, and even a small crop of potatoes and corn was harvested by several of the farmers. In the fall of this same year, 1830, three more families came into the settlement, and located. These were D. Nickerson, Jacob Road and Z. Stafford.

The winter of 1831, was exceedingly mild,

and the Litchfield people suffered but little inconvenience from the weather this season. With the coming of May, when the trees were again decked in green, came an addition of settlers for the new colony, from the far East. The first two families to arrive were those of Asa Strait and Lewis Finley. They were soon followed by J. L. Hinman, D. Pickett, O. Nickerson and W. Cole, with their families. J. L. Hinman, one of the new-comers, moved his family in with one of the older settlers, for the time being, and constructed a substantial frame dwelling on the tract that he had bought, and which he commenced to clear. On the 13th of June, 1831, an event occurred which cast a shadow of sadness over the whole colony, for the time being. This was the death of little Jane, the daughter of Asa Strait. This was the first death that took place in the township, and the funeral services were the first open religious services ever held in the colony. On the Sunday following the death, her father, who had been an Elder in a Baptist society in Connecticut, delivered a religious discourse to the people in one of the little log cabins. About twenty-five people, young and old, had congregated to listen to the sermon. Religious meetings were continued in this way, being held at the different private houses, until a few years later, when church societies were organized, and these met for a number of years in the union meeting-house, that had been erected at the Center, for public worship.

The political organization of the township was effected on the 30th of June, 1831, and the township was admitted into the County of Medina, under the name of Litchfield—under which name the territory was already known, having been given it by Mr. Beers when he first gained control of it as agent of the original proprietor. At the first township election, held in July, there were nine votes cast. E. Howd, J. Vandventer and George Olcott, were chosen as the first Board of Trustees; Thomas



Wilcox, Clerk; Asabel Howd, Treasurer, and Jonathan Richards as Justice of the Peace. A commendable spirit of emulation now became manifest among the citizens of the township, to place it on an equal footing, in every respect, with some of its older sister townships in the county. In the fall of the same year, the voters of Litchfield convened and cast a voice in the State election, which took place on the 13th of October. The township records, which had been kept intact, were consumed by a fire in 1879, and no exact or definite data can now be given of these early political events, and much valuable and interesting information of the politics of the township is lost.

During the spring months of 1832, a host of emigrants came into the settlement of Litchfield. In one day in May of that year, no less than forty-one persons moved in, and all had come to stay, with the purpose of making this locality their future home. Such large additions to the number of inhabitants gave a zest to the life of the colony. That public interest was alive is well illustrated by the manner in which the great national birthday of the American Union was celebrated in the colony on its anniversary day in the year of 1832. Special invitations and word had been passed around among the settlers, far and near, and, when the sun rose on the morning of the glorious Fourth, the farmers came trooping in from every direction, with their wives and daughters and sweet-hearts. Nearly all came in ox-sleds—the only kind of conveyance in use among them at that time—and a few walked “cross lots” through the woods. They all congregated in the center of the township, where now is located the public park in the village of Litchfield. The oxen—about thirty or forty teams in all—were chained to the trees. There was then but a small space of open ground in this neighborhood. The woods echoed with merry sounds of song and laughter, and the greetings among these people as they came in one after another,

were profuse and heartfelt. It was surely an old-fashioned Fourth of July celebration. After the compliments of the day had been exchanged, the men in a body set to work, under the directions of one or two older men, and “cleared” away the timber from a space of ground on the northeast corner of the Center, where now is located the dwelling of A. S. Jenne. Then a number of logs were roughly hewn, notches cut in at the ends, and in a very short time four wooden walls arose. Before the hour of noon had arrived, the building had been completed, logs had been dragged in for seats, and the “union meeting-house” had been completed, all within six hours. Baskets of provisions had been brought by the farmers’ wives, and, when the work had been done, they all congregated together in the woods and had a Fourth of July picnic dinner. The formal exercises of celebrating the day and dedicating the new house took place in the afternoon. A few national airs were sung by the whole assembly. Uncle Jonathan Richards read the Declaration of Independence, while Elder Asa Strait delivered the oration, closing up with a proper reference to the work that had been done by them that day, and giving the new building over to the people of Litchfield for all public and laudable uses. The exercises of the day closed with the formation of a temperance and moral reform society, which continued in existence for a number of years.

One of the features of the day was the gun squad, consisting of Daniel Olcott and Moses Olds, which played a very prominent part in the celebration, intentional and accidental. The gun used by these two patriotic cannoneers, simply consisted of a chunk of a log, with a hole in one of its ends, in which the powder was plugged, and then touched off by a fuse hole. They fired the gun for several times with rather startling effect, when, while young Olcott was pouring in the wooden gun-hole another charge of powder, it suddenly exploded,





caused by sparks that had been retained in the wood. The wooden bowl in which the powder was kept, was torn to pieces, part of it striking Moses Olds on the forehead, and felling him to the ground. He bled profusely, but soon recovered. The clothes of Daniel Oleott were set on fire by the flash of powder, in the confusion that took place among the people present to assist him and put out the flames, and every stitch of clothing was torn from his body. He was singed considerably, but not very dangerously. He was wrapped in a bed-quilt and conveyed home. The festivities continued without further firing.

For several years following, an annual celebration of the national day recurred regularly in the colony, and was considered as a most eventful day to the inhabitants of Litchfield Township, and their neighbors in adjacent townships north and south.

A social event of great importance occurred in the Litchfield settlement in the summer of 1834. This was the dual marriage of Charles Richards and Lyman Cole, to the sisters Chloe and Julia Peek. The ceremony took place at the house of the brides' parents, one mile north-east of the center, the Rev. Asa Strait officiating as clergyman. The two young couple at once set out for themselves, after they had secured each a helpmate. Young Cole secured a tract of land adjacent to his father's possessions, and continued the occupation of a farmer; while Charles Richards, who had quite a mechanical turn of mind, devoted his attention to industrial pursuits. A little dwelling was erected for him in proximity to his father's home, one mile north of the center, and this served him as a home for himself and young wife, and as a workshop. While living with his parents at their home in Massachusetts, he had, as a boy, worked in a silversmith factory, and had acquired the trade, so that he was quite an adept in this branch of workmanship. He had brought with him a few tools necessary to work at the handicraft, and,

for the first few years in the new settlement, he had spent a large portion of his time in experimenting and perfecting himself in the art. After marrying, he adopted it as a profession, and opened up, as already stated, a little silversmith shop in Litchfield. He built a small smelting-furnace, secured crucibles and other apparatus at Cleveland to conduct his work. The young silversmith soon established a brisk trade, and at various times employed workmen in his shop. The demand for his goods among his brother-settlers was easily supplied, and he, therefore, sought a market elsewhere. He met with success wherever he endeavored to sell. For a number of years, he supplied the retail stores at Elyria with domestic silverware.

The charm of life is in the incidents and variations that often crowd upon us. It was these scraps of history that made old Uncle Jonathan Richards so generally known. He, at different times, conducted a singing-class in the log schoolhouse at the Center. In his course of instruction in the art of harmony, he availed himself of a short slip of wood placed between the compressed palms of his two hands, and then, putting the base of the thumbs against his mouth, he blew into the open space between the joints of the thumbs, and thus produced a sound. In this wise he found his scale-notes, very much for the same purpose as the singing master of to-day uses his tuning-fork. One of the boys in the colony, named Erastus Dickerson, had acquired this art of blowing a scale upon his hands in imitation of the worthy singing master, and he even excelled the latter in blowing out full, strong sounds. So, upon a banter from his comrades, the lad, who was about seventeen or eighteen years old, arose one day in the crowded meeting-house, while the venerable teacher was holding forth in eloquent terms on the divinity and grandeur of music, and sounded the "sol, si, sal," of the teacher, as well as his strong lungs would permit. The effect was startling. The whole assemblage broke out in a shout of





laughter. This irritated and infuriated the singing master beyond all measure. He had the boy arrested for riot and disturbance of the peace on a State's warrant, as soon as time would allow it. A trial was had before a Justice of the Peace, within a practicable time, and it became the all-engrossing topic among the people for the hour. The deepest interest in the case was evinced on every side. Though many of the older people thought that the boy deserved punishment for the offense, still the manifest sympathy of the community seemed to be entirely on his side. Lawyers were called in from Medina to work the case in all its bearings. The proceedings took place in the little tavern at the center. The end of it was, that the boy was fined \$10 by his Honor the Justice of the Peace. As a fitting close to the little legal farce, the witnesses—there having been about fifteen subpoenaed—signed their fees over to the prisoner before the bar. He collected it, paid his fine, and then had \$8.75 left.

A source of pleasure and income alike to many of the Litchfield farmers, was the hunting of wild game which abounded in the territory in plentiful numbers in the early days of the settlement. It was an occupation that was industriously followed by many of the young farmer lads, and the older ones, too, during the winter months. It is related by Mr. A. Canfield, that at one time they had as many as thirty-two deer carcasses hung up on the trees around their house. Many of the farmers killed from 100 to 200 deer during the season, and venison was the regular fare with them for more than half the year. That which was not used for home consumption, was transported by wagon to Cleveland, and a good share of it from there transported to Eastern markets.

One of the afflictions that brought about considerable loss to the families of Litchfield, was the "bloody" or dry murrain, which at different periods for several years affected the cattle of the colony, and caused them to die in num-

bers. The owners of cattle were worried and perplexed with the epidemic, and tried, by all means within their power, to stop its progress and continuance. The cattle, in these days, had no other feeding-ground than the woods, and were given but little other nourishment than the wild grass that they could find. From this, probably, more than anything else, the disease took its origin among the Litchfield cattle. Many and persistent efforts were made to stop the disease and its spread, but for several years it proved of no avail to check the inroads made by it upon the lives of the cattle. Not until meadows and pastures had been established, and the ruminants could feed on succulent and fresh grass, did the epidemic disappear.

A locality about one and one-half miles west of the village of Litchfield, along the banks of Center Creek, became notorious at an early day in the history of the township as a place called "Bogus Hollow," which name clings to it at the present time. In the latter half of the thirties, one Rufus Moses, who had become a settler in that region, established a small tannery, and pursued the occupation pertaining thereto. He carried on a remunerative business in this line, as he was quite an ingenious fellow, and an adept at the trade. After a few years, he added a small foundry, supplying the farming community with agricultural and domestic ironware. He enlarged his industries further by adding a carding-mill, and also a saw and grist mill. The necessary power for his mills was gained by the accumulated waters in the stream passing through a short race-course that had been constructed. There was a busy hum in this region while these factories stayed in motion; and the enterprise of tanning hides, molding ironware, and making woolen goods, continued for a number of years. The place was of high repute among the people far and near, for the manifest enterprise that was displayed and the business airs that it assumed, and it was not until the certain discovery was made that spu-



rious coin was manufactured here, that odium was cast upon it. The dies for the molding of counterfeit money were found hidden in the vicinity, by special detectives, who had been sent from Columbus. No positive evidence was ever established to fasten the guilt of making spurious coin upon any one in particular, and there is no proof to show now how much of the money made here ever got into circulation. It is told that a few of the residents of this locality departed about this time in rather a surreptitious manner.

The place was then given the appellation of "Bogus Hollow." It soon fell into decay, and in later years the building was destroyed by fire and but little in the line of industries has been done there since.

Several saw and grist mills were established in the township as early as 1834. It was in that year that David Hinman built a mill for the sawing of lumber north of the Center. This was destroyed by fire in 1838. Several other saw and grist mills were erected about this time in the township, but they have gone out of use, and no definite information could be gained of the names of the persons who undertook these various enterprises. In connection with the industrial affairs of the colony, are its cheese-making interests, which to-day form one of the main factors in the agricultural pursuits of the Litchfield farmers. From several reasons, it forms a chapter of great interest in the history of the township. The first cheese-factory was established in the spring of 1866, by A. C. Benedict and Martin Brooker. The latter soon sold out to his partner, who then extended his interests in this line still further by building and conducting factories in the adjoining townships of York, Penfield and Grafton. He carried on his business on a very extensive scale, and became one of the most prominent cheese manufacturers in the Reserve. With the panic of 1873, he was forced to make an assignment of his posses-

sions. The effect upon the people of the township is well described by a report written by Mr. H. A. Leach at this time, from which we partially condense. It is dated November 19, 1873: "A great excitement has just broken out in financial circles in Litchfield over the failure. The news broke upon the public to-day, and is a great surprise to many. There is no man in town whose failure would have affected so many, and done so much injury to the township. The panic cloud has spread darkly over the township of Litchfield. Though greatly limited in proportion to the affair on Wall street, its effect will be as severely felt by the citizens here. The loss to the people of Litchfield is between \$12,000 and \$15,000—a very heavy loss to be borne by a farming township, and at a time when it was the only dependence of many. The manner in which the people of Litchfield have resolved to meet the panic looks encouraging. Creditors are willing to give more time to their debtors. Some are trying to sell stock, and some will be obliged to sell their farms, but all have resolved to work it out." In the lapse of years that have followed these financial disasters, the depression that was caused by them has disappeared, and there is again a buoyant stir and a well-grounded confidence evident among the farmers of Litchfield Township.

The little hamlet at the center of the township is an unincorporated village of 269 inhabitants, according to the census of 1880, and takes its name of Litchfield after the township. In 1832, there was only one house at the Center, which was built and owned by George Olcott. The following year, five more buildings were put up in the immediate vicinity. About the fall of 1835, Asahel Howd established a small country store; while, about the same time, William Converse located as a practicing physician. Mr. Rufus Moses opened up a shoe-shop at the Center in connection with his tannery, which was located about a mile





west. In the succeeding years, William Horton, Smith Hinman, F. R. Hamblin, Mark Kilburn and Douglas Bradley opened places of local commerce. Within recent years, frequent changes have been made in the ownership of these different stores. In the spring of 1879, the northwest corner of the village was swept away by fire, causing a considerable loss. It has now been partially rebuilt. Among the different structures—churches, dwellings, stores, taverns, etc.—that compose the village town-hall, a solid brick building, stands out most prominent. It is of a plain style of architecture, two stories high, and one of the handsomest public buildings in Medina County. It was finished in the fall of 1871, and, after the proper dedicatory services, was given over to public use. A memorial tablet to the volunteer soldiers of Litchfield Township adorns the end wall in the rear of the rostrum in the upper hall. It is a large marble slab, 4x6 feet, and bears the following inscription:

"A MEMORIAL TABLET TO THE LITCHFIELD  
VOLUNTEERS."

Beneath this are given the names of the enlisted soldiers of the township, seventy-five in number, of whom eight re-enlisted after the expiration of their first term of service, eight were wounded, six died, and four were killed on the field of action. Under this, at the bottom of the tablet, is written: "Litchfield Township paid \$14,162.45 for war purposes during the rebellion." Building Committee: John Sears, George R. Brooker, James Booth, E. H. Richards, C. A. Stranahan.

A special feature of attractiveness and beauty is the public park, located in the center of the village. The following enactment, providing for the construction of a park, was passed by the General Assembly of Ohio, through the instrumentality of Mr. F. R. Loomis, Representative for the county of Medina, on the 30th of March, 1875. It reads:

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio*, That the Trustees of the township of Litchfield, Medina Co., Ohio, are hereby authorized to vacate and discontinue the public roads now passing through the square at the center of the town, and to lay out and fence off a park in the center of said square, and to lay out public roads around the outside of said park.

SEC. 2. Said park above provided for, shall be under the control of the Township Trustees.

After the passage of this act, the necessary special tax levy was made by the Trustees for the laying-out of the park. It was properly leveled and sodded, and an inclosure placed around it. Young maple-trees were set out and the walks graveled. The cost for this work aggregated a little over \$300. The park is of octagon shape, and forms, to-day, one of the prettiest adornments to the village. A post office was established at Litchfield in the year 1845. Mr. George Olcott was the first Postmaster. In the first years of its existence as a postal station, it received a bi-weekly mail by way of Medina and Norwalk. Walker Cole was the first mail-carrier, taking it afoot between the two mentioned points. At present, the town is a station on the Burbank and Bel-den mail line.

A survey of railroad, on what is known as the Clinton Air Line Extension, was made through the town in 1854, passing directly through the center of the village. Several miles of grading was done in the township, but the project was shortly afterward abandoned, and the railroad embankment can yet be seen in its incomplete state.

The supposition has been quite prevalent among the Litchfield people, that the veins of the Grafton oil fields on the north, extended into the townships. Various attempts at drilling have been made in different localities of the township, to find a productive yield of the oil. In 1855, the Oil Boring Company, consisting of Elisha Rice, John Mattison, G. F. Peckham and J. B. Strait, was organized, and they bored



for oil in the west part of the town. They sank their shaft over 400 feet, but found but little oil, and finally gave up the undertaking.

The second attempt was made by J. V. Straight and E. Rice, in the spring of 1860, north of the town. After going a depth of 225 feet, they abandoned the undertaking, as no oil in sufficient and paying quantities was found. In 1876, Dr. E. R. McKenzie, W. D. Orr, Norman Nicholls, Philaster Starr, A. J. McQueen and Alexander Brooker, known as the Litchfield Oil Company, made a similar attempt at Crow's Corner, located about a mile northwest of the center, to strike an oil vein in the ground. This also proved futile, and no further efforts have been made.

An event of a great deal of interest, and which aroused a spirit of strife and emulation among the people of the township, and which deserves to be admitted to the pages of the township history, is the great rat-hunt which took place in the fall of 1875. Two sides were chosen, each consisting of twenty men. Mr. Valentine Shank was appointed Captain on one side, and G. R. Brooker Captain of the other. The hunt continued for three days, when the sides brought in their returns. Shank's squad returned 5,000 rat tails, and Brooker's 9,000. The defeated side paid their defeat by an oyster supper at the village tavern.

An organization of considerable social distinction is the Litchfield Lodge, No. 381, of Free and Accepted Masons. Its charter was granted by the Grand Lodge of Ohio at Cincinnati, on the 14th of October, 1867. Its first officers were J. A. Rettig, W. M.; G. W. Noble, S. W.; J. F. Hutchins, J. W.; Ephraim Wolcott, Treasurer; D. B. Alcott, Secretary; E. H. Richards, S. D.; and Lyman Wolcott, J. D. The lodge meets once each month on the Monday preceding the full moon. The services are held in the town hall. The present officers of the lodge are E. H. Richards, W. M.; A. C. Hurd, S. W.; C. A. Newton, J. W.; W. S. Ber-

dan, Treasurer; H. K. Canfield, Secretary; A. D. Willis, S. D.; R. S. Church and W. A. Rising, Stewards; H. L. Rising, Tiler.

The first Congressional Church of Litchfield was organized in the year 1833, with twenty-two members. The Rev. William Shaler, of Shalersville, Geauga County, was the first minister of the society. The meetings were at first held at the union meeting and town hall, erected at the Center on a 4th of July. During the years from 1835 to 1837, Rev. Asa Smith was the presiding Pastor of the church. He was followed by the Rev. Erastus Coles. A separate church edifice was constructed by the society in 1850, on a lot donated by Benoni Alcott. This burned down a few years later, and another was constructed in 1853. The society now numbers nearly a hundred members, and is the most influential church organization in Litchfield Township.

The Methodists organized a church society in the southwest part of the township in the spring of 1833, with thirteen members. The Rev. Mr. Billings was the first officiating clergyman. The members met at the "South" Schoolhouse, at the Center, for worship. Mr. Daniel White was the first Class-leader, and acted in that capacity for a number of years. In 1843, a building was erected by the society on a lot donated by Russell Brooker. It was afterward refitted and enlarged. Several other Methodist classes had been organized in different parts of the township, and it was after a meeting-house had been constructed near the Center, that they coalesced, and now form one church organization. It is now a church society of prominence and influence, and has a membership of over a hundred.

In the early church history of the township, the Baptists claim a very prominent share. The first organization of a society of this creed was made in 1833, through the efforts of Elder Asa Strait. There were thirteen original members. The society grew in influence and numbers in a





very short time. In 1835, a separate meeting-house was constructed by them about a mile from the center. It was removed to that point in 1844, and was considerably enlarged. It burned down two years after its removal, and in 1847, another edifice was built, which now stands in the center of the village, and is used as a house of worship.

The school affairs of the township form a very notable feature in its history. Instruction in the rudimentary branches of learning had been given at private houses, by different persons, from the very first years of the colonization of the township. Miss Almira Nickerson taught the young children in the northern part, while Miss Julia Peek taught in the southwest

part. After the organization of the township, a regular district school was started at the center of the town, and the school sessions were held in the Union Meeting House. Delia Beekwith was the teacher of the district school from the time it was organized, and she continued in that capacity for several years. A subdivision of the township was made in 1843. It was divided into five districts. In later years, a re-apportionment has been made, and there are now seven districts in the township. The youth, of proper school age, enumerated in 1879, number 205. A special and select school is now taught during the winter months of the year in the lower apartment of the large and commodious town hall.

## CHAPTER XV.

LIVERPOOL TOWNSHIP—PHYSICAL FEATURES. GEOLOGY, ETC.—FIRST SETTLERS—SALT MANUFACTURE—OIL WELLS—SAW-MILLS, GIST-MILLS AND DISTILLERIES  
—VILLAGES, CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS.

AFTER a long and eventful life has furnished abundant experience and wisdom, it is pleasant to look back in memory over the silent years, and trace the visions that have animated the hopes of the human race. Every life is filled with mistakes, and the wisdom of age is shown by the frank avowal of former error, and an earnest desire to shield youth from hopeless waywardness and the bitter pangs of remorse. Old people love to recall events which transpired when savages and wild animals roamed the forest, because they were participants, and young people discover a delightful fascination and romance in the story of pioneer life. Tales and traditions of early years are eagerly sought by the historian and the novelist, and are woven into beautiful fabrics of fiction by the latter, and into stern fact, which is stranger than fiction, by the former. The familiar faces of old associates and friends rise up from by-gone years,

and pass in review in the visions of the mind. Utensils and ornaments, soiled and worn with age and use, are preserved through many generations as precious mementoes of the dear old grandparents, who long ago were laid to rest in the grassy churchyard. The story of pioneer life will live in future songs of prose and poetry, after the nation in its strides of advancement attains a Grecian glory or a Roman grandeur.

The second permanent settlement in the county was made in Liverpool Township, and at that time the county was a wilderness filled with wild beasts. The physical features of the township are striking. The land is rolling, and, in some places, abrupt and precipitous, affording streams an excellent opportunity in times of freshets to wear away the hills into steep prominences, and carry the debris into the valleys. The township is bounded north and west by Lorain County, east by Brunswick, and south





by York, and comprises twenty-five sections. It was first formed some time before the war of 1812, but for many years was known only by number and range, and was afterward surveyed into sections by Edward Heath, a native of Connecticut, who came to the township in 1817. All the streams in the township have worn deep valleys, many of them being in some places a hundred feet below the hills along their banks. The soil is largely clay, with occasional beds of sand. The surface outcroppings reveal the Waverly group of rocks. Rocky River, the principal stream and the only one of any prominence, enters the township on Section 23, thence flowing a little west of north across Sections 24, 17, 18, 13, 8, 3, and entering Lorain County. The river is extremely winding, and has long since worn through the surface and blue clays, down into the stratum of thin sandstone that underlies the township. The water is clear, and, in early years, when the streams were choked with fallen timber and brush, the river often arose above its banks covering the valley, which in some places is half a mile wide, and reaching a depth of thirty or forty feet. Since the rapid flow of water in it and its tributaries has become obstructed, but little fear of destructive floods is felt. Cossett Creek, named for the first settler on its banks, rises in the eastern part and flows southwest, entering the river in the northern part of Section 18. Mallet Creek, another stream named for the first settler on its banks, flows from York Township, passing across Sections 23 and 24, and emptying into the river. The northeast quarter is drained by several small streams, which flow west into the river. Much of the western portion is drained by Plum Creek, a small stream which enters from the west, flowing across Sections 20, 19, 12, 9, 10, 1, 2, and entering Rocky River in Lorain County. The southwest corner is comparatively level, though even here the land is rolling. Granite boulders are scattered at intervals over the town-

ship. Numerous casts of pre-glacial marine animals are found in the rocks and quarries and exposures on the river, among which are trilobites and brachiopods. No quarries have been opened and worked in the township, for the reason that an abundance of rock such as it is, is found exposed in numerous places, but is of little value from its brittle, shaly nature. Solid banks of rock rise perpendicularly from the bed of the river, in some places forty or fifty feet.

A number of years before the war of 1812, Liverpool Township became the property of Daniel Coit, a native of Connecticut, who advertised the land for sale. Inducements were held temptingly before poor men in the East by the owners of large tracts of land in the West, and many, yielding to the force of necessity, sold out and left the land of their birth to seek homes in the wilderness of Ohio. In the winter of 1810-11, Justus Warner and a Mr. Warden, having seen the advertisements of Daniel Coit, came out to look at the land in Township 4, Range 15, of the Western Reserve, or, as it was then called by many, New Connecticut. Mr. Warner was pleased with the country, and soon afterward purchased about a section of the land in what is now Liverpool Township. Then, early in the year 1811, Mr. Warner, accompanied by his son Alpheus and wife, and three young men in quest of adventure, started for the land he had purchased. The township was reached after many hardships, a large, rude log cabin was erected, and, while Alpheus Warner and wife remained its occupants, Justus Warner returned to Connecticut for his family. Moses Demming had come out with them, and, after securing a tract of land adjoining that of Mr. Warner, he returned to the Nutmeg State for his family. After making all necessary arrangements, he started with his family late in April, 1811, for Ohio, driving an ox team, with a horse on the lead. Mr. Demming owned eleven head of young cattle, and he determined to take them with him. This was done with



an infinite amount of toil and trouble. They traveled through the woods at the rate of sixteen miles a day, selling to the people along the route a sufficient number of wheel-heads which had been brought with them, to pay their expenses. To the great relief of the weary travelers, Liverpool Township was reached on the 18th of May, 1811, after a tiresome journey of twenty days. Justus Warner and his son Alpheus had come out with two two-horse teams, carrying with them fifty long-corded, wooden Waterbury clocks to sell or trade along the route, or after their arrival. With them came the three young men, Ely L. Seeley, David Scoville, and an Irishman named Clark. All went to work to clear a piece of land for grain, and the next fall Justus and the three young men returned to Connecticut. On the 28th of February, 1812, Justus accompanied by his family, came to Liverpool Township, when they were soon made as comfortable as the situation permitted. During the summer of 1811, a large clearing had been made on the Warner farm. Indians were encamped near the little settlement, and one day they informed Mr. Warner that they knew of a large, very salty spring on his farm, and offered to reveal its location for a few pieces of coin. The amount was paid, the whereabouts of the spring was disclosed, and the water, to the great satisfaction of Mr. Warner, was found so extremely salty as to make it apparent that salt could be easily manufactured from it, thus opening a splendid source of revenue to the owner, since the scarcity of salt in the wilderness, and the expense of transportation to Cleveland had raised its value from \$5 to \$15, depending on the location. Mr. Warner immediately dug a broad well of considerable depth at the spring, and erected a long shanty of clapboards, in which were placed about a dozen iron kettles obtained at Canton. The kettles were hung on poles in suitable positions, and the boiling was begun on an extensive scale. The water was

evaporated until the brine had reached the consistency of sirup, when the liquid was allowed to cool, and from this the salt formed in large crystals. After the crystallization was completed, the dirty liquor was turned off, revealing quite a quantity of coarse salt at the bottom and on the sides of each kettle. The number of kettles was afterward increased to more than fifty, and the salt works became known for scores of miles around, and received a splendid patronage. The salt was wet and coarse, yet it sold readily sometimes as high as \$20 a barrel, and was looked upon as a God-send, as it saved long journeys through bottomless roads to Cleveland and other distant places. The salt works were visited by settlers living south forty or fifty miles, who often came on foot with a bag on their backs, in which to carry home a half-bushel of the wet salt. One day a man from Wooster, Ohio, arrived, having traveled the distance on foot. His food, which was tied up in a dressed fawn skin, consisted of a coon that had been stuffed and baked, and a loaf of corn-cake that had been baked in the ashes. After resting and refreshing himself with what is now vulgarly called a "square meal," he shouldered his half-bushel of salt and started through the wilderness toward home. Mr. Warner soon discovered that more money could be made in the manufacture and sale of salt than on the farm; so he devoted his time and attention to that occupation, and hired men to clear and improve his farm. He succeeded in making more than a barrel of salt a day, and found a ready sale for all he made, the salt often being sold entirely out. After the settlers had arrived in considerable numbers, other salt springs along the river were discovered and worked, but not so extensively as that of Mr. Warner. The latter continued the manufacture until the opening of the Erie Canal, when the cost of the transportation to Cleveland from New York having been greatly lowered, so re-





duced the cost of salt that Mr. Warner found the business no longer profitable, and discontinued it. The industry at that early day was one of the most useful and important ever in the county. The spring was located on the west bank of Rocky River, a short distance above Marysville, where it may yet be seen.

During the summer of 1811, while the young men were clearing in the woods, about half a mile from the cabin, Oliver Terrill, by a miss stroke, cut a terrible gash in his foot. The blood was stanchied, and, although Terrill weighed 192 pounds, he was carried to the cabin on the back of Ely Seeley. On the 1st day of June, 1812, a daughter was born to Alpheus and Minerva Warner. The child was named Sally Urania, and was the first white child born in Liverpool Township; and, so far as known, the first in the county. On the 26th of July, 1812, Ruth (Warner) Demming, daughter of Justus Warner, and wife of Moses Demming, died, her death being the first in the township. The first frame building was a barn erected by Mr. Demming in 1812.

In June, 1812, war with Great Britain was declared, and a short time afterward, Justus Warner, who had been to Columbia, brought news one dark night that Detroit had surrendered, that the British were landing at Huron, and that the people at Columbia were making hasty preparations to start for the older settlements. The settlers of Liverpool hastily packed their handiest and most valuable goods on wagons and started for Columbia, and, about 1 o'clock the next night, they were met by Levi Bronson, who informed them that there was no immediate danger, whereupon the settlers resolved to return to Columbia and build a block house, which was accordingly done. Capt. Headley was made Commander, and, while one-half of the men were detained at the fort on duty, the other half were allowed to go home and take care of their stock and homes. Several of the settlers came to Liverpool every

morning to feed the hogs, milk the cows, and see that none of the animals went astray. In the spring of 1813, all the settlers returned to Liverpool, and several new ones came with them. Salt Spring Town, as it was then called, became well known, and the presence there of salt was an inducement to settlers seeking homes. All were apprehensive, during the war, of attacks from the Indians, and a constant watch was kept, that, in case of a visit, the settlers might not be wholly surprised. The men at the salt works labored all night, keeping watch in the meantime, while the wives, with more or less anxiety, guarded their little broods at the cabins. As long as the songs and voices of the men at the works could be heard, all was known to be well. The Indian scare soon passed away, and new settlers began to appear. H. H. Coit, the son and agent of Daniel Coit, the proprietor of Liverpool Township, came out and built a cabin on the land now owned by Mr. Purdy. He entered into some sort of partnership with Justus Warner at the salt works, and the capacity of the works was greatly enlarged. Advertisements were printed in the East as to the advantages of locating at Salt Spring Town, and soon the settlers began to appear, with their heavy wagons covered with thick waterproof cloth and drawn by oxen, or horses, or oftener still, by both combined in an oddly consorted team. John Cossett came in 1814, and located on what afterward was called Cossett Creek. William, Noah, Erastus and Eliada Warner, relatives of Justus and Alpheus, appeared in 1815, and, in 1817, Seth and Zary Warden and Edward Heath came. The latter was a man of fine education, was called Capt. Heath, and was the one employed to survey the township into sections, the work being carefully and accurately done. After 1817, and until 1822, the settlers poured in rapidly, but, for a few years after the latter date, the influx of settlers was almost at a standstill. Among those who came, prior to 1822, were Henry Mallet and his



sons, Daniel, John and Henry, Jr., who settled in the southern part, on Mallet Creek; Barney Spooner, Timothy Woodbridge, Daniel Buffam, John B. Tyler; Cornelius Thomas, who settled on the State road; Elisha Rouse, Asa Robinson, Paul Ford, Robert Carr, Ebenezer Wilmot, Julius Knowlton, and many others, who settled along Rocky River, mostly on the east side. The heavy forests went down rapidly, and soon the shouts of harvesters were heard, where erst the war-whoop resounded. Industries began to arise, schools and churches were organized, and Liverpool assumed the appearance of a thriving settlement. Almost all the settlers were located on the east bank of the river. Temporary camps of Indians were established along the river during the hunting season, and the savages were looked upon by the settlers as intruders, as they killed large numbers of deer and other animals of value to the settlers.

In 1822, a camp of about eight families was located on Mallet Creek during the "bleating season," and they began to destroy the fawns in such numbers that the settlers resolved to stop the slaughter. Daniel Ford and six or seven other men started from the Center to warn them off. Two of the men, concluding it was safer to return, did so, but the others went on. When they arrived at the encampment, the wigwams were deserted; but, from the condition of things, the settlers knew the Indians were concealed in some neighboring thicket. A large tree was stripped of its bark on one side, the figure of an Indian was drawn with charcoal on the white wood, and then the settlers, retiring a short distance, shot their rifles into the image, and then returned to the Center. The Indians understood the hint and immediately started for some other locality. A few sheep were brought to Liverpool prior to 1820, but the wolves were so fierce and bold that they were soon destroyed. Cattle were attacked and devoured, and so great became the fear of these marauders that a grand circular hunt was

resolved upon, to take in portions of Liverpool and Brunswick, and a portion of Lorain County, the center to be near the northeast corner of Liverpool, in Lorain County. The hunt took place in the summer of 1819, and began early in the morning. About three hundred men surrounded a large section of country, the center being as above stated. The center was a portion of land about a quarter of a mile square, and was indicated by blazed trees. When this square was reached, the firing was to cease, and the men were to stop marching. The words, "all ready," were passed around the ring, and then the march toward the center began, with horns and shouts and frequent reports of the rifle. On the march toward the central square, the men were instructed to shoot every animal that appeared. As they were nearing the center, when every man was excited, as large numbers of deer and other animals could be seen bounding from side to side of the circle, a man named Warner, following a running deer with his rifle, fired, and shot another man named Pritchard, through the heart, killing him instantly. The report swept around the circle that a man was shot, and scores left the ring to see if their father or brother was the one killed. This caused the circle to break, and the excited animals broke through and bounded off through the woods. It was estimated that between two hundred and three hundred deer escaped, besides several bears, foxes and wolves. The unfortunate death of Mr. Pritchard cast a gloom on the occasion, and the men returned to their homes. It was looked upon as an accident that might have been avoided, with proper care. Warner and Pritchard were cousins and good friends, and no implication of intentional shooting was ever added to the distress of Mr. Warner.

Liverpool Township was created, organized and named in 1816, and at that time comprised the following boundaries: All the territory west of the 12th Range to the fire-lands, and





all south of Township 5 to the south line of the Reserve. How the township came to be called Liverpool is unknown, unless it was named for a city of the same name in England, where there were extensive salt works. This is said to have been the origin of the name. Among the first officers elected were Moses Demming and H. H. Coit, Justices of the Peace. It was the custom of Mr. Demming, so far as possible, to adjust the cases that came before him by a compromise—a procedure well worthy of imitation, though but little followed at the present day. One day, a man with a battered face came to him and asked for law on the subject of assault and battery. Mr. Demming saw “fire in the man’s eye,” so he handed a well-worn copy of the Bible to the stranger, who, after turning it around for some time, finally announced that he could not read. The Justice took the book and read, “He that smiteth thee on the one cheek, turn to him the other also.” The stranger first looked at the book, then at the reader, slowly put his hat on his head, and, as he walked out of the door, said, “That law is too devilish poor to do me any good.” Justus Warner was one of the first Justices, and was noted for his eccentric though satisfactory ways of settling disputes. One day, Asa Marsh was boiling at the salt works. Mrs. Townsend called to him to get his gun and shoot an otter which she saw in the river. This was done, and Marsh carried the animal to the salt works, intending to preserve the skin, which was quite valuable. Mr. Townsend, who thought he was entitled to the animal, came and conveyed it to his cabin, whereupon Marsh followed him and brought it back. Townsend again appeared, and, after cutting the animal into two equal portions, carried one-half to his house. He was summoned to appear before Justice Warner to answer for his conduct. After the evidence was all in, and the defendant had made his statement, the “Court,” who had grown considerably excited, and whose eyes

sparkled, passed judgment in this wise: “Mrs. Townsend found it, she did, and Marsh shot it, he did, and each man has what belongs to him, and the case is dismissed, it is.” Tradition says that the costs were taxed to the Constable, but that is undoubtedly a slander on the “Court.” Justus Warner lived to the remarkable age of one hundred years and twenty-two days. A short time before his death, he was asked to lie down, but he answered: “If I do, I shall never get up again.” He began lying down, and, in a few days, his kind old heart ceased to beat. His wonderful will, energy and vitality were all that kept him alive so long. He was very eccentric in his manner, and afforded constant amusement to those about him by the singular freaks of his character. One day, in a canoe, he attempted to cross the Rocky River, which had risen far above its banks and had a very swift current. After struggling with the waters for some time, and making no headway, he suddenly ceased rowing, ejaculated “Ah!” threw his oars into the water, and, seizing a rope tied to the bow, he began tugging at it with all his power, as if he expected to pull himself ashore by that means. He floated down the river about a quarter of a mile, and landed, finally, on the same side from which he started. On another occasion, he dug a well, and, while working around it one day, Minerva, his daughter-in-law, told him to be careful and not fall in. He made no reply, and, soon afterward, disappeared. Minerva, thinking that perhaps he might have fallen in the well, ran and looked down, and there he was, sure enough, up to his arm-pits in water, shivering with cold. He was drawn up, and, after he had changed his clothing and become warm, Minerva enjoyed the satisfaction of telling him, “I told you so.” But the old man was not cornered, for he tartly replied: “Ah! I didn’t fall into the well, I didn’t; I slipped in, I did; and I suppose, now, you’ll never forget getting your say, you won’t.” He did a great deal,





during his long and eventful life, to build up the township, and people it with industrious and intelligent citizens. When Minerva, the wife of Alpheus Warner, left Connecticut, she tied up a small package of apple-seeds, designing to plant them in their new home in Ohio. After about ten acres had been cleared, she went out one day in 1812, and, with a case-knife, made small trenches and sowed therein the apple-seed. Many of the trees thus obtained are standing on the old farm, and the grandchildren are enjoying the fruit to-day. This was undoubtedly the first orchard in Medina County.

When the first settlers came into the township, and for many years thereafter, the woods were filled with deer and other wild animals. So plentiful were they that, at any season of the year, a hunter could go into the woods and return in a short time having killed one. Daniel Ford in one year killed a hundred, and, ere they had entirely disappeared, he killed over a thousand. Often the skin and the most valuable portions of the flesh were all that were taken, the remainder being left to the wolves and buzzards. One day Mr. Ford was out hunting deer in the northern part of York Township, when he heard his dog barking furiously some distance in advance. He hurried forward and discovered that his dog had treed a large bear, which quietly sat on a large limb above, surveying the angry movements of the dog below. A shot from the unerring rifle brought the huge animal to the ground, dead. When deer could be driven into the windfall in the southern part of the township, they were easily secured, but the animals instinctively avoided those places, and sought the more open portions of the forest. A tornado must have swept across the township a few years before the settlers appeared, as a strip of timber in the southern part was almost wholly leveled with the ground. The windfall and the deep woods adjoining it became a great resort for countless

thousands of pigeons that alighted there in the spring of the year. Thousands of dozens were taken and shipped to Cleveland and other cities. Gentlemen of sporting proclivities from Cleveland visited the grounds on hunting expeditions, and slaughtered a great many. It was extremely dangerous to carry a torch or lantern among the pigeons, as they would instantly dart for the light and dash it to the ground, and endanger the eyes and face of the reckless hunter. After many years, when that portion of the township was cleared up, guano was found upon the ground to the depth of six inches. Albert Heath shot the largest deer ever killed in the county. The animal was known to all the hunters as the "big buck," and many a tiresome chase after him had resulted in failure. One day, when on his track following him, Albert, then but a boy, heard the distant report of a rifle, and, stopping short, he soon saw the big buck running like the wind directly toward him. When close enough, the young hunter fired, and the animal fell dead upon the ground. When dressed, it was found to weigh 254 pounds. Portions of its antlers were worked into knife handles, and may yet be seen at the residence of Mr. Heath. About a mile southeast of Liverpool Center, there were in early years, several acres of crab-apple trees, which every year hung full of the sour fruit. Justus Warner devised a rude cider-press, and began manufacturing cider of sufficient sourness to satisfy the taste of the most inveterate toper in the neighborhood. The apples were made into sauce, also, and afforded a desirable addition to the homely fare of the cabin. Large quantities of wild plums were found near the crab-apple marsh, and were used in the culinary department by the backwoods-women. One day, Eri and Heli, two small sons of Alpheus Warner, were out in the woods with an ax, when they heard their dog barking off at some distance, and ran to discover the cause. The dog had driven some



animal into a large, hollow log, and the boys immediately resolved to dislodge and kill it if possible. Heli crept in several feet at the open end of the log to prevent the egress of the animal, while Eri began chopping vigorously at the other extremity, designing to make an opening where the animal could be driven out. The first blows of the ax brought the beast to within a few feet of Heli, who, lying at full length in the end of the log, saw its eyes glowing like two balls of fire. "Here he is, here he is; I see him," shouted Heli, and the animal drew back. An opening was soon made at the other end, and, suddenly, the head of a large fox appeared, but the ax was brought down upon it with great force, stretching the animal lifeless on the ground. The courageous boys proudly conveyed the dead fox to their home, and their exploit soon became the talk of the neighborhood, and the boys were lionized by the neighbors.

As soon as the settlers had arrived in sufficient numbers to render the outlook auspicious, various industries arose to supply articles that could be obtained otherwise only by long journeys to neighboring mills or villages. The roads were not then as they are at present, when fifty or sixty miles can be made in a day. Twenty miles was a long, hard day's journey, and usually fifteen miles of travel through the muddy roads completely exhausted the best teams. This led to a demand for lumber, flour and household supplies at some point nearer home. A man named Darling erected a combined saw and grist mill on the river, in the southern part as early as 1818. The building was a long, low one, with two apartments, in one of which was placed the apparatus for sawing logs, and in the other, a small set of "nigger-head" buhrs for grinding grain. Good water-power was obtained by means of a race and a dam, and the mills were enabled to run eight or ten months of the year. Almost all the early houses and barns were built of lumber obtained at this mill. Saw-

ing was done either on shares, half being taken by the sawyer, or at the rate of about \$3.50 per thousand. Rinaldo Cossett, a boy of about fourteen, was one day fishing at the mill-pond, when, by some means unknown, he was drowned. It was whispered that foul play had been done him, and many entertain that view of the matter at present; the truth will probably never be known. The grist-mill furnished a fair article of flour, and was well patronized. After being in operation about ten years, the mill was abandoned. After this, for a number of years, the settlers were compelled to go to Middlebury for their flour and meal, or, if they were satisfied with an inferior article, as many of them were, it could be obtained at a small grist-mill operated by a Mr. Jackson, who had erected it about the year 1826. Combined with the grist-mill (if such it can be properly denominated) was a saw-mill that did splendid work, and commanded an extensive patronage. Fine lumber was prepared here at prices within the reach of all. The grist-mill furnished excellent meal, but the flour was coarse, and but little better than "cracked wheat." The bolters were small and defective, and much of the bran was left with the flour. It was wholesome, but considerable difficulty was experienced in getting it to rise properly when bread was being made. The mills were operated by water-power, and were continued for about fifteen years, when the machinery was removed to some more favored locality.

In 1823, Daniel Ford began manufacturing wooden bowls from cucumber-wood and white-wood. A small shanty-shop was erected, and the machinery consisted of a hand-lathe. The business was continued a few years, but, not proving profitable, was discontinued. In 1820, Abner Martin built a small distillery a short distance south of the center. The building was a frame structure, built of lumber obtained at the Darling saw-mill. A copper still, having a capacity of about twenty-five gallons, was used,





and the grain was ground, or rather chopped, by a small set of stones, operated by horse-power. It is said that an excellent article of whisky was manufactured at this distillery. Old settlers in the township who remember drinking it, speak regretfully of the difference between the whisky furnished by the Martin distillery and the adulterated article found in commerce at the present time. The whisky was so superior, or so small in quantity, or both, that it was drank as fast as it was made. It is even asserted that thirsty settlers were often seen with cups in their hands standing around the warm-tub waiting anxiously for the liquor to cool. Stories are also told of bacchanalian revelry at the old distillery, carried on late at night, or, rather, early the next morning. At any rate, the liquor disappeared so rapidly that none was left to be carried to other localities and sold. After some fifteen years, the distillery was abandoned. On the east bank of Rocky River, opposite Liverpool Center, William Wilson erected a small distillery, and began the manufacture of whisky as early as 1825. His liquor was pronounced a fair article by the toppers of Liverpool, and he received a sufficient patronage to render the business profitable for about eight years, at which date the still was removed and the building devoted to other uses.

In 1830, John Groll built a distillery one mile and a half southwest of Liverpool. The building was frame and was constructed of home-made lumber, much of it being white-wood and walnut. His still had a capacity of some fifteen gallons. Attached to the machinery was a set of chopping-stones, where grain was prepared for fermentation, the milling apparatus being operated by horse-power. The building is yet standing, a monument to the early enterprise of Mr. Groll. He ran the distillery six years, and manufactured considerable whisky. It is said that he had a small receipt book giving the composing elements of almost a hundred kinds of mixed drinks, many

of which he manufactured for his customers. Salt was added to give pungency, strychnine to give flavor and a staggering sensation, and other drugs and poisons to produce the sensations so well known to the dram-drinkers of the present day. In 1840, a man named Gow engaged in the same pursuit, in a small frame building a short distance northwest of Marysville. He made a limited quantity of good whisky, and continued the occupation nearly six years. The early distilleries were of great value to the settlers, in that they furnished a market for rye and corn at home, and furnished what was then known as one of the necessities of life—liquor. The laws of supply and demand lowered the price of grain, and increased that of household and farm implements, utensils and supplies. The price of corn, and, in fact, all the cereals, was rendered so low by the cost of transportation to the consumer, that but little profit could be made in their cultivation, besides the unavoidable loss of time and expense incident to their conveyance to market. But, when several distilleries were in comparatively extensive operation, a steady market, somewhat limited in extent, was provided. Corn and rye were given in exchange for whisky or mixed drinks, which never left the mantel-piece of the cabin of the backwoodsman. Whisky was looked upon by many as a panacea for all ills to which mankind are subject. It was used both as a cooling beverage and a warming one. It was prescribed by pioneer physicians for both digestion and indigestion. It was taken in sickness and in health with a prodigality that seems startling in this day of temperance activities. Traditions are afloat which point to dark deeds at some of the early distilleries in Liverpool. A band of counterfeiters had a rendezvous on Mallet Creek, and some of the settlers were detected while passing spurious dollar and half-dollar coins. Pewter coins minted in Liverpool, at an early day, may be seen at the residence of Mr. Ford, where they



are preserved as curiosities. One of the settlers was tried and convicted of having an interest in the unlawful business, and was sentenced to the penitentiary, where, according to reports, he afterward died. Another was tried, but was acquitted for lack of evidence of guilt. It is probable that the distillery-men were in no way connected with the band, otherwise than as furnishing them with liquor of various kinds.

Messrs. Warner and Coit were not the only ones engaged at an early day in the manufacturing of salt. Demming, Cogswell, Wilmot and others dug wells, procured suitable kettles, over which were erected rough shanties to protect them from the weather, and began a more or less extensive manufacture. All the salt manufactured prior to the opening of the Erie canal, sold readily for an advanced price. Some of the men while prospecting for salt at an early day, made the discovery of the presence of oil in the township. Attempts were made to utilize the oil for lighting and lubricating purposes, and prosecuted in a quiet way. After wells had been dug and water had settled therein, a dark, pungent oil was found to issue from the water and form upon the surface at the rate, in some instances, of about a barrel a week. A small quantity was taken to Connecticut by Alpheus Warner, where it was analyzed and tested by experienced chemists, who pronounced it valuable in cases of throat disease, and as a lubricant. Attempts were made to use it as a remedy for sore throat, but its disagreeable taste and smell, coupled with the fact that its properties as a remedy were largely unknown or undetermined, were sufficient reasons for avoiding its use. Some of the oil was bottled and circulated in commerce and used in the Western States. It was found that an agitation of the water in the wells, increased the yield of oil to half a dozen times its former quantity. In about 1850, when the oil excitement in Pennsylvania aroused the

people of the country to the fact that they were destined to have better lights in their houses, the citizens of Liverpool and capitalists from abroad began prospecting along Rocky River, a short distance above Liverpool Center. The strength of the well was thoroughly tested, and the quantity of oil obtained gave flattering promises to capital seeking investment. Land along the stream upon which oil was discovered, arose considerably in value, and the owners began selling stock in their wells. A large percentage of the citizens, with the hope of securing fortunes like those read about in Pennsylvania, invested what they could spare in purchasing stock, and, for a time, the outlook was flattering. At different times, eleven wells were dug, and arrangements were made for skimming the black-looking oil from the surface of the water. The wells were dug down to the rock, the distance varying from twenty to seventy feet, after which, drills were used to increase the depth, in one case to 1,450 feet. But, although the flow of oil did not wholly cease, it was found to be so small in quantity as to render the working profitless. Every effort was made to increase the flow, but without avail. Mr. Parmelee, at the center, owned \$500 worth of stock, and at one time, was offered \$2,500 for it, but he refused, and soon afterward the stock was worthless. Many others experienced a similar fortune, or misfortune. Several wisely sold their land, securing the increase in value, while others, who possibly had a colossal fortune like that of Astor or Stewart in view, waited a little longer, and failed to realize any gain from the excitement. The proprietors of the wells, and those who sold out, were the only ones benefited. The former were not benefited, however, by the sale of oil, but by the sale of stock. The oil, when first obtained, is black, with a reddish cast, and is found to be of unusual excellence as a lubricant, as it never gums up the machinery. It has never been rectified, except in





small quantities. One hundred and fifty barrels of the oil were obtained at one well, and several of the others yielded a score or more. It is yet obtained in small quantities, and is used to the exclusion of other oil on all kinds of machinery, and is also used to some extent for lighting purposes.

The first settler who came into the northeastern corner, was Abram Beebe, who arrived in 1824. He came in a covered wagon, drawn by two yoke of oxen, and drove with him ten head of sheep and one cow. His land—fifty acres—was purchased of Daniel Coit. The following year, Hollis Newton settled near him, and soon afterward Salathiel Bennett, Roderick and Benjamin Beebe arrived in 1828, and immediately afterward several came, among whom was Obadiah Newton. The Beebes were intelligent and energetic people, and did much to advance the cause of education and religion. The neighborhood became known as Beebetown, a name it yet retains. The northwestern and southwestern portions of the township were not settled as early as other portions. The land was not so open, and there were not those inducements to locate there as there were along the turbid Rocky River, where the country was comparatively open. In addition to this, there were more marshy tracts on those portions. However, in about 1830, several large emigrations of Germans established themselves there, and these portions of the township are almost wholly German at present.

In 1837, the village of Marysville, or Hard-scrabble, as it is more popularly known, was surveyed and platted by Nathan Bell. The land was owned by the heirs of Daniel Coit, one of whom was his son, H. H. Coit, who acted as agent for the others. Thirty-three lots were laid off and offered for sale. H. H. Coit (or perhaps Justus Warner), gave sufficient land for a public square, or park, and around this were grouped the lots. Mr. Warner gave two or three acres on a commanding prominence near the

village, for a burying-ground, and the village began to grow. Six or eight houses went up, and the villagers were clamorous for a store and a post office. The name "Marysville" was bestowed upon the village, in honor of Mary, the wife of H. H. Coit. Some time afterward, because of the herculean efforts made by some, to attain an extra amount of property and popularity, and because of the great rush and *scrabble* thus made, the euphonious title "Hard-scrabble," a peculiarly appropriate name at that time, was bestowed upon the village. So well suited was the name to the condition, or occasion, that it was immediately adopted by every one, to almost the total exclusion of the other and correct one. If you were to speak of Marysville to some of the citizens to-day, you would be regarded with surprise, and would probably be asked what you meant. The village is almost universally known as "Scrabble." A year or two after it was laid out, Mr. Coit erected a building designed for a storeroom, into which Edwin Powell placed \$1,000 worth of a general assortment of goods. This was, so far as now known, the first stock offered for sale in the township. Through the energy and influence of H. H. Coit, Justus Warner and others, the establishment of a post office at the village was secured, and Mr. Powell received the appointment of first Postmaster. For a number of years prior to this, the township mail was obtained at Abbeyville. Prior to 1825, the citizens were obliged to go to Cleveland, and a portion of the time they were required to pay 25 cents postage on each letter. Twenty-five cents then was equivalent to a dollar now, and the letters were read repeatedly, possibly to get the money's worth. Mr. Powell conducted the business with fair profits for about five years, when he died, and his stock was closed out at auction. He was succeeded by Francis Smallman, who began with some \$600 worth of goods, including liquors. Mr. Smallman was intemperate, and, it is said, drank him-





self to death; at least, he died three or four years after opening his store, and his goods were closed out like those of Powell, who, according to the reports, also died from extreme intemperance in drinking the liquor he kept in his store. A short time after Mr. Smallman's death, Archibald Miles appeared at the village and announced his intention of engaging in the mercantile pursuit, if a suitable partner could be found. Alpheus Warner at length concluded to sell his farm and enter into partnership with Mr. Miles. The farm was accordingly sold and much of the money realized was invested in a large stock of goods, probably worth \$6,000. Everything went off smoothly for a time, and the ledger indicated that handsome profits were being realized. Mr. Warner did not scrutinize the accounts, nor the management of the business very closely; but, by degrees, he discovered that his partner had cheated him out of several thousand dollars, whereupon the partnership was dissolved, and the goods disposed of. This was the extent of the mercantile pursuit of "Scrabble." Dr. Palmer located in the village at an early day, and for many years, prescribed for the ills of the neighborhood. He was an intelligent man, and a good physician. After a number of years, he was succeeded by Dr. Parker, who, in time, became one of the most skillful practitioners ever in the township. In early years, a malady known among the settlers as "Cuyahoga fever," but which was probably typhoid fever, swept off many of the pioneers, and defied the skill and experience of physicians. Dr. Parker was among the few who could, in a measure, control the disease. He acquired an extensive practice, and received the confidence and patronage of his own and adjoining neighborhoods. He is yet practicing in the township. Blacksmiths, carpenters and other mechanics have flourished in the village at different times. Business slowly declined, mechanics, one by one took their departure, and many of the lots were thrown out into the adjacent

farms. The village is now almost wholly deserted.

The village of Liverpool Center has had a different experience. It was laid out and platted in 1845 by Abraham Freese, surveyor, and Ashael, Edmund and William H. Parmelee were the proprietors. Twenty-five lots were originally laid out, to which an increase, to the extent of fifty-seven lots, was made in 1852 and 1854. The first building in the village was erected on the west bank of the river, a short distance above the bridge, by Thomas Warden, in 1820. The structure was a small frame, established amidst the marshes and bogs of the river bottom. Soon after the family came there to live, the deadly "Cuyahoga fever" visited them, and shortly afterward both husband and wife were consigned to the grave.

The second building was a saw-mill, erected near the site of the present mill, by Seth Warden, in 1821. Shortly after this, Edward Heath, Enoch Carter, Homer Edson and one or two others, erected log dwellings in different portions of the village. In 1824, Mr. Edson sold out to Titus Sutliff. Garry, the son of Mr. Sutliff, also erected a dwelling soon afterward. Justus Warden, a brother of Seth, built a large dwelling, but, in about 1830, sold out to Dr. Parker, the first physician to locate in the village. In 1832, Charles Sabin built the house now occupied by the family of Mr. Maley. Six or eight years later, Merritt Sabin came, and occupied a dwelling, built by himself, in the western part. In 1838, Eri Warner built the house at present owned by Eliada Warner. The structure was a frame and quite large, and three years later Mr. Warner fitted it up and began entertaining the public. By this time, the people became impressed with the thought that their village should be properly laid out and recorded. This was accordingly done, as above stated, and gave a new impetus to its growth. Eight or ten houses went up within the next three or four years, and mechanics and



artisans appeared and began plying their peculiar trades. A Mr. Tillotson, a blacksmith, located in the village as early as 1839. In 1837, there were some eight buildings in town, and within the next five years, there were almost twenty. Francis Smallman brought about \$1,500 worth of goods, including liquor, and, in 1840, placed them in a storeroom that had been built by Samuel Arnold, on the site of the present Lutheran Church. Soon afterward, Mr. Smallman erected the combined store and dwelling now owned and occupied by Mr. Carr, and removed his stock of goods therein, but, after conducting the business with varying success for some six years, he transferred his stock to Marysville, where he afterward died. A Mr. Merryman succeeded him, but he, likewise, left at the expiration of a few years. In 1843, Wilmot & Brush fitted up the old saw-mill, and placed therein a stock of goods valued at \$2,000, and began with quite an extensive and flattering patronage. They erected an ashery near the store, and began manufacturing black and white salts and pearl-ash, at the rate of nearly twelve tons per annum. These men were shrewd financiers, and, at the end of four years, having "feathered their nest" well, at the expense of their fellow-citizens, they departed for "other pastures." Miles & Lawrence came in 1845 with \$4,000 worth of goods, which they offered for sale in the Warner building. Becoming dissatisfied in about four years with the profits realized, they removed their stock of goods.

Brush Brothers came soon afterward with quite a large stock. They built an ashery and made considerable money at the combined pursuits. From 3 to 6 cents per bushel was paid for ashes, depending on their quality and condition. Fresh ashes from oak wood were considered the most valuable, except those from hickory; but the supply of the latter was small, there being but little hickory timber in the township. After continuing in the village a few years, the brothers moved to some

neighboring village, where the outlook was more promising. Teachout & Tousley engaged in the mercantile pursuit soon afterward. They likewise conducted an ashery in connection with their store, and manufactured as high as fifteen tons of potash per year. They followed the common practice in early years of giving goods from their store in exchange for ashes. Those who burned large log heaps were careful to preserve the ashes, as several dollars could be realized in the sale. This firm did a good business, and continued several years. They were followed by Ruprecht, Langerbacker, Steeple, Greenleach, Rosenfelder, Carr and Gunkleman, the most of whom were prosperous, having a fair trade with reasonable profits.

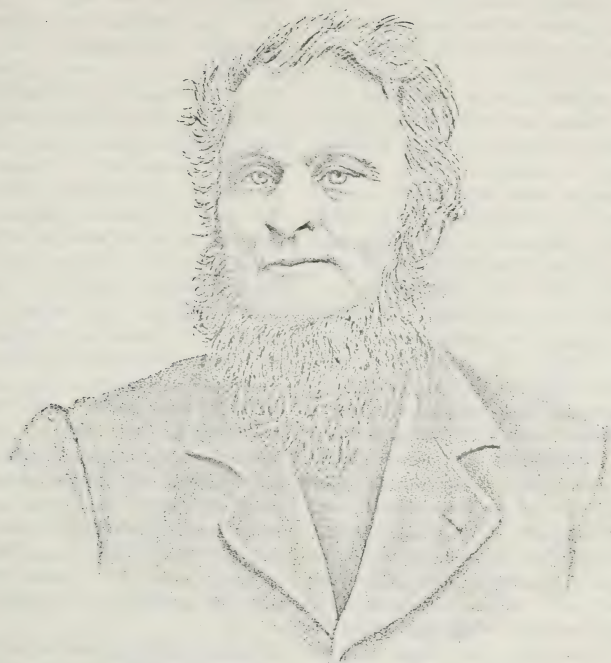
Liquor has been sold in the village since it was laid out, Smallman being the first at the business. A man named Pfeifer opened the first real saloon, in 1855, in what is known as the Zacharias building, a brick structure erected a few years before.

One of the most important industries ever in the town was a foundry, established the year the village was platted. The building was a two-story frame structure, and was erected by Charles Pritchard, who manufactured various articles and implements, such as plows, road-scrapers, andirons, flat-irons, engines, etc., for a period of fifteen years. Employment was given to eight or ten workmen, and the utensils manufactured were sold throughout Northern Ohio. The enterprise was a decided success, though the owner was at first discouraged by doubts of ever securing a lucrative patronage. A short time before the beginning of the last war, Mr. Pritchard sold out to Noble & Johnson, who enlarged the scope of the business somewhat, and altered it in a few respects. They conducted the enterprise for a number of years, but Johnson finally sold out to Noble. The foundry is yet in operation, under the ownership and management of G. W. Noble.

The saw-mill erected by Seth Warden was







*L. B. Parker*



purchased by Sabin, who operated it until 1838, when A. S. Parmelee, having located in the village, bought the mill and a tract of land adjoining the village. Under Mr. Sabin's management, the building was enlarged, and, in one apartment, a set of "nigger-head" buhrs were placed for grinding grain. Mr. Parmelee has owned and operated the grist-mill since 1838. In 1849, both were burned to the ground, but were immediately rebuilt, and greatly increased in size and capacity. Two sets of excellent buhrs were added, making three in all, and the mill became generally patronized. The saw-mill became a double one, with two saws, and was, perhaps, the most complete mill ever in Liverpool Township. The mills were located at a point where a natural race from Rocky River furnished excellent water-power. But the motor thus obtained was inadequate to supply satisfactory power, and an engine was placed so as to operate both mills. When there was abundance of water, the engine was not used; but, in times of drought the engine was set in operation, thus making possible the running of the mills during the entire year. After a few years, the saw-mill was sold to Samuel C. Arnold, who operated it until about 1866, when David Goodrich became the owner. It is yet in operation, and has been under the management of other owners.

Immediately after coming to the village, Mr. Parmelee, who was a professional clothier, placed in a small building erected for the purpose a complete set of wool-carding and cloth-dressing apparatus. Soon afterward, spinners and weavers were employed, and the capacity greatly increased by the addition of improved machinery and the use of steam as a motor. All three mills were operated by the same machinery, to which belts connected the special machinery of each. The lights used in the mills and the oil employed in running the machinery were from the crude petroleum obtained at a well near the mills. Mr. Parmelee began manu-

facturing cassimeres, satinets, flannels, etc., on quite an extensive scale. The machinery was destroyed by fire in 1849; but, when the grist-mill was re-built, several important improvements were made, and the carding and weaving apparatus was placed in the second story, where it yet remains. As high as 10,000 yards of cloth have been woven in one year, but the average is far below that number. Of late years, the looms have been idle, owing to the inability of Mr. Parmelee to compete with larger establishments, where a poorer grade of cloth has been manufactured. The cloth has been mostly sold at home, and as high as 500 yards have been retailed in one day.

In about 1867, Aaron Carr established a planing-mill in the village, and began to manufacture washing-machines, pumps, spring bottoms for beds, etc. The industry was an important one, and constant employment was given to several assistants. Large numbers of pumps and washing-machines were manufactured and sold throughout the neighborhood. After following the combined pursuits for a number of years, Mr. Carr sold out and commenced manufacturing cheese. It is estimated that he used the milk of 400 cows, for, during the short period while engaged in the business, he made from ten to twenty cheeses per day. Mr. Carr is at present in the mercantile business in the village. Mr. Sabin also owned a factory and made washing-machines, beginning a year or two before Mr. Carr. Odell & Pritchard also engaged in the same occupation, and had an extensive patronage for a number of years. Many years before, perhaps soon after the village was platted, Luther Welton erected a small shop and commenced making "Windsor" chairs. Large numbers were prepared and sold in the neighborhood. In many a dwelling may be found to-day chairs manufactured by Mr. Welton. Pierce & Curtis are at present engaged in the manufacture of pumps. Mr. Parmelee conducted a wagon-shop for a short time, and was



also engaged in mercantile pursuits; but a few months at the latter occupation were abundantly sufficient to satisfy him of the wisdom of retiring while his capital was yet under his own control. A tannery with six or eight vats was started a number of years ago, and is yet doing a thriving business. Hammer and ax handles are manufactured in the village. A jewelry store and a photograph gallery have honored the town with their presence. Tin-shops and gun-shops have also appeared, there being manufactured at the latter fire-arms of various designs, including excellent shot-guns. Brick and pottery have been prepared at kilns near the village. Some three or four men have been engaged at different times in the important occupation of manufacturing cheese, a considerable quantity of which has been shipped to distant points. Other important industries have been conducted in times past. As was previously stated, Dr. Parker was the first physician to locate in the village. He was followed at different times by Drs. Smith, Stock and Chamberlin, and later by Jones, Hobson and Gamble. Of these, Parker, Gamble, Hobson and Jones were skillful practitioners, and received the confidence and support of the citizens. The village has a present population of 200. It is said that at one time in its history more manufacturing was done there than at Medina, the county seat. This is probably true, as the large buildings seem to imply. No other village in the county of its size has done equal business, proving that the township is populated with an intelligent and enterprising people.

Schools were organized in the township as early as 1816. In an old log building intended for a dwelling, which had been occupied as such two or three years, and which was located at Marysville, a term of school was taught in about 1816, but the first teacher's name is unrecorded and long since forgotten. The school was a three-months term, and the teacher was

paid by subscription at the rate of \$1 a scholar for the term, the teacher boarding around, and the boys by turns building the fires in a large fire-place, with which was associated a large chimney, built of flat stones gathered along the river. It is likely that the building was used some eight years, or until the erection of a schoolhouse proper near the present site of the village, as no other school building is remembered to have been used during the interval. The one built in 1824 was of round logs, and was about twenty feet square, and had the indispensable fire-place and chimney, without which the pretensions of the pioneer schoolhouses to gracefulness and dignity were regarded with amusement. This building served the purposes of education at "Hardscrabble" for a period of eighteen or twenty years, when a frame structure of moderate size took its place. Some fifteen years ago, the present one was constructed. About the time of the first school at Marysville, a log schoolhouse was built on the east bank of the river, near the Center, the ground where it stood being afterward washed away. The name of the first teacher is not remembered. It is quite likely, however, that one of the Warners taught the school. A few years later, a new house was built, and Justus Warner purchased the old one, which was afterward used as a church. The new house was used some twelve years, when a frame took its place, the latter being supplanted after many years by the present one, a large building with sufficient capacity to accommodate all children likely to attend. In 1820, school was taught by a Miss Nisbett in a cabin owned by Mr. Rouse, and located in the eastern part. The school was taught during the summer months, the teacher boarding around, and receiving her pay by subscription. Heli Warner, then a small boy, attended the school. That is, he had started; but, becoming dissatisfied in a boyish way with what he regarded as the assumed author-





ity of the teacher, he started for home, possibly intending to call a council of the family to review the situation, and perhaps secure the discharge of the teacher. He was plodding along the road, ruminating in his mind some infantile problem, when, upon reaching a log bridge over a small stream, a large bear ran out from under the bridge and shambled off through the woods. The boy did not know it was Mr. Bruin, and the latter, not waiting for an introduction, left Heli unaware of its being a bear until told so upon his arrival at home. The school continued in session, notwithstanding the absence of the boy, and was regarded with so much approbation by the patrons that the second term was held the following winter in the same building. Afterward, a schoolhouse was built across the line, in Brunswick. A school building in the southeastern part was built in 1821 or 1822. Like the other early ones, it was constructed of logs, and was used until the demands of the neighborhood required a larger and better one. Three others near the site of the old one have been erected and used. A log schoolhouse was built in about 1828, at "Beebetown," near the northeast corner of the township, Willis Beebe being the first teacher. He was paid \$12 or \$13 per month. He taught a number of terms there, as did also Warren Beebe. In 1837, another house was constructed of hewed logs, and located back from the line some distance in Liverpool, but the third and the fourth houses were built at the corner, in Lorain County. The district comprises portions of Liverpool and Brunswick Townships and Lorain County. The other schoolhouses in the township were probably not built until after the creation of school districts. The one in the northwestern corner was not built until about 1830. The schools are generally well attended.

Some time before the year 1816, several congregations of Episcopalians in Connecticut

sent a prominent minister, one of uncommon force of character and intelligence, to the Western Reserve, for the purpose of organizing societies of their denomination. This gentleman, the Rev. Roger Searles, appeared in Liverpool Township during the above year, and began a series of meetings having in view the extension of the membership of the church to which he belonged. Meetings were held in the old log schoolhouse at Liverpool Center, and all the settlers turned out to hear the eloquent discourses of the minister from Connecticut. A society was immediately established, and almost all the settlers became members. Services were held in private cabins, and several of the old settlers recollect sitting on rude stools, or on the side of pioneer beds, while listening to the word of God. The labors of Mr. Searles in other fields called him away for months at a time, and the members were compelled to do as best they could without his presence and advice. Some member was called upon to read a sermon, wherein the doctrines of the Episcopalian Church were expounded; others to lead in singing and in prayer. After a time, Mr. Searles ceased to preach for them, being called upon to labor in other places, and the society was then visited by Rev. Jacob Ward, an eloquent minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, then residing in Liverpool Township. This gentleman preached often for the settlers, and, by the force of his genius, finally succeeded in changing their faith and belief from Episcopacy to Methodism. Among the dusty records of the church in Connecticut, to which Mr. Searles belonged, is found his report on the work done in Liverpool Township, and contained therein are the following words relative to the society he had established: "The flock has gone to feed in strange pastures." The members—Methodists—held meetings in the old log schoolhouse, which, after being purchased by Justus Warner, was used exclusively as a church. In 1827, a small frame church



was built near town. This building, provided with rude furniture and altar, was used until about 1841, when the present church was constructed. Rev. Lorenzo Warner was among the first ministers, as was also Hugh Parish. A short time after the organization of the Methodist society at the Center, another of the same denomination was instituted near the eastern boundary of the township, and, a few years later, a small church was erected. The society was small, and, after about twenty years of labor, quietly disbanded, and the members joined other societies near them. A society of Close Communion Baptists was organized at Beebetown in 1828, and, for four or five years, continued to assemble in the old log school-house. In about 1832, a small hewed-log church was built, and, when dedicated, contained no floor other than the ground, and but few rude clapboard seats. The Rev. Mr. Hudson was the first minister. The present church took the place of the old one, in about 1845. The society slowly grew in strength, but, finally, under the light of religious advancement, the church ritual was discarded, and the members effected a re-organization as Free-Will Baptists. The church at present is in a thriving condition. Two Lutheran churches have been built in the township, and the societies were organized in comparatively late years. The advent of large numbers of German immigrants, beginning about 1830, soon prepared

the way for these societies, which have become strong and prosperous since. The Lutheran society, in the southeastern part, is second in the township in point of membership. It was first organized about 1835, and, four years later, their present church, a large frame structure, was erected. The one in Liverpool Center was created about the same time, and their present church, a large, fine brick building, was erected in 1868. About this time, the Rev. Mr. Grunert was the officiating minister. About the time of the last war, the Catholics had become so strong as to make it advisable to build a church, which was accordingly done a short distance west of the Center. An imperfect Catholic organization had been effected many years before, and had finally taken shape a number of years prior to the erection of the church. The building is a large structure, with costly furnishings and beautiful stained-glass windows. Though among the youngest religious organizations in Liverpool, the society has, by many odds, the largest membership, and is yet growing. A German Methodist society was instituted many years ago, a short distance east of Marysville. It grew slowly, and, finally, a small frame church was erected. The members are few, yet they are earnest in their labors, and their influence on the morals of the neighborhood is felt. The township is well supplied with religious privileges.









*A. G. Willey M.D.*



## CHAPTER XVI.\*

SPENCER TOWNSHIP—PHYSICAL FEATURES—ORIGINAL SETTLEMENT—EARLY CUSTOMS—PIONEER INDUSTRIES—CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS.

IT is natural for a civilized people to inquire into the adventures and exploits of their ancestors; to note those causes which shape the ends and destinies of great nations, as well as the smallest systems of civilized government; to mark the varied scenes in the life of the pioneer, his customs, the mode of his operations, and the numerous incidents which brighten the lonely life of the hardy few who sought and broke the solitude of the mighty forests with ax and rifle.

The history of a township embraces those minor details and events incident to the settlement of a new country, rendered charming by the peculiar character and customs of those men who, by sturdy industry, lifted like a veil the great forests from the face of our country, substituting grain-fields, blooming gardens and bright firesides, for a primeval and howling wilderness.

Spencer is bounded on the north by Penfield, on the west by Huntington, on the south by Homer, and on the east by Chatham.

The East Branch of Black River and its numerous branches afford sufficient drainage and irrigation. This East Branch enters the east side of the township, and follows a very tortuous course north and west across the corner of the township. Near the present course of the river is to be seen the remains of a large beaver dam, on the farm of Henry Snyder. Along the course of this winding river were beautiful springs of water which came from so deep under the hills, as to be cold as ice in summer and warm in winter. The principal branch of Black River was situated in the south part of

the township, and became known as the South Creek. This stream was situated in a narrow defile and when swollen by freshets rushed down the stony ravine with great velocity, at every sharp curve, throwing logs, ice, or whatever *debris* it bore, high on land. The bottoms of the river were covered with large groves of papaw, and butternut trees, shaded by huge sycamore and black walnut, and, to add to these wild beauties, festoons of wild grapes hung from their twining vines in luxuriant abundance. And these bottom-forests, extending up the hills, blended into dense forests of beech, hickory, graceful elms and gigantic oaks. These forests were cut by many a winding path, trod alone by wild beasts and the soft moccasin of the wily Indian.

Salt springs were numerous in the west half of the township, and, silent as the shades of darkness, the cautious red man with a coal of fire, stole down and hid himself near these "licks," waiting the approach of the graceful deer.

Amid this wild grandeur and savage beauty, the white man came. Little thought the red man that this solitary one was the forerunner of a mighty host that would level their forests, drive the game from their hunting-grounds, and tear the sod from the graves of their forefathers.

This first white man and family came in 1823, and settled on the banks of Black River, near where John Stroup now lives. His name was John P. Marsh. He bought the land of Samuel Parkman, of Vermont, who was the original proprietor of the township, for \$3 per acre. His nearest neighbor was in Harrisville Town-

\* Contributed by C. J. Aldrich.



ship, five miles distant. Mr. Marsh was born in Vermont. His wife, Clarissa, rode from Harrisville on horseback, carrying one child in her arms, while another rode behind her on the same horse. Mrs. Marsh, *nee* Clarissa Rodgers, was born in Connecticut. The house which they occupied was about eighteen feet square, made of notched logs, shake roof, puncheon floors, and stone and stick chimney. The door, which was the only way of egress and ingress, was very heavy, and at times was fastened by a long pole reaching from the door to the opposite side of the house. Very few were the comforts and luxuries of such a home. The table was a large hewn plank with four legs. Their chairs were rude slabs, and their beds were made as follows: Two holes were bored in the floor, and on a line parallel with the wall, far apart enough for the length of the bed, and far enough from the wall for the width, which was frequently wide enough for three or four persons. Two upright posts were fitted into these holes. These posts were arranged so as to put pieces of timber from them into holes bored the proper height in the wall. Then a piece of timber was fitted into holes in the posts, so as to form the front rail, and the bedstead was complete. Now all that remained was to weave a bark or splint bottom, place a few skins or a mattress of leaves, grass, or, perhaps, feathers, on the frame, and there was the bed on which our forefathers slept the sleep of the just.

The log cabins generally had a loft or chamber above. This loft was used as a storeroom and sleeping quarters, and was generally reached by a ladder. Although Mr. Marsh was the first settler in the township, a man by the name of Rising, from Huntington, built the first cabin. This cabin was on the river road near where Jacob Mantze's house is now situated. Rising made no purchase of land, and, though building the cabin, did not come to live in it. In the fall of 1823, Phineas Davis and family came, and occupied the unused house of

Rising. Soon after this came other families, among which were the Bizzard, Bissett, Space and Falconer families.

The settlers naturally congregated at one point, which was on the river road where the north-and-south road, which is one mile east of the parallel center road, crosses. This is now known as the River Corners, or Spencer's Mills.

Township No. 2, Range 17, belonged originally to Medina County, and was then attached to Penfield Township, which was also a part of Medina County, along with Huntington and Sullivan. It was afterward, with the forenamed townships, set over into Lorain County.

It was generally supposed that this transfer was made to build or help to build the court house at Elyria. In 1839, the township of Spencer was re-instated in the county of Medina, but the other townships were left to constitute a part of Lorain. The first record found on the duplicate of Medina County, after the first transfer, is in 1840.

The township of Spencer was named and organized in 1832, the 18th day of February, when twenty-one votes were cast. The circumstance of naming, as given by the early settlers, is somewhat contradictory. The most authentic history of the event is as follows: The settlers wishing to have their township known by a name, proposed to call it Marshfield or Marstown, in honor of the first settler, John P. Marsh. But Mr. Marsh told them, though he appreciated the honor done him, he knew as well as they that the name of Marshfield or Marstown was not suitable for a township so rolling, and far from what the name implied. So matters stood until Calvin Spencer, who owned the Spencer Mills, proposed to give \$50 in lumber to build schoolhouses if they would give his name to the township. To this the people agreed, and met, as before stated, to organize and name the township and elect officers, whose term should run until the





following 2d of April. The officers were as follows: Abel Wood, Clerk; Henry W. Wood, Treasurer; Gershum Bissett, Fence Viewers; Philip Bizzard, John P. Marsh, Ezekiel Bissett, Trustees; Linzey Bennett, Overseer of the Poor; Henry Wood, Supervisor; Samuel Falconer, Constable.

No Justice was elected. These officers were all qualified, and served until the 2d day of April, 1832, when the voters of Spencer Township and Homer met in the former place and elected the following officers to act as the regular township officials for the two townships: Abel Wood, Clerk; H. W. Wood, Treasurer; Samuel Falconer, Constable; Philip Bizzard, John Marsh and John Park, Trustees; Gershum Bissett and Linzey Bennett, Fence Viewers; Linzey Bennett and Philip Bizzard, Overseers of the Poor; Henry Wood, Batchelor Wing and Richard West, Supervisors. This was the first regular township election held in the township. John Park, one of the Trustees, lived in Homer, as did Batchelor Wing, one of the Supervisors. The first election in Spencer was an organizing election, and Homer had no part in it, consequently, the officers served only a short time, when the two townships held the joint election before mentioned. These elections were held in the old log schoolhouse at Spencer Mills.

For nearly four years after the first settlers came to Spencer, there were no meetings, religious or otherwise. So, in order to pass the Sabbath more pleasantly, the young people would congregate, generally at Mr. Marsh's place. Here they would read the Bible for a time, then some of the boys would get an ax and all would go down on the river for a romp and good time. Some would take the ax and cut a grapevine and make a swing. Some would gather wild flowers and weave garlands and nosegays, or gather bright pebbles and shells, while others searched for birds' nests, chatted of the occurrences of the week, or some

of the rosy maids slyly flirted with their gallants.

Chopping-bees were generally held through the afternoon. The choppers were plentifully supplied with whisky. In fact, it was a breach of manners not to offer whisky to the guests. Then, late in the afternoon, the dance would commence, and the merry revelers forget the flight of time as their light feet kept time to the music. Even when the ladies had a quilting, the sweetened whisky was passed around, and the ministers of the Gospel thought a little "rye" made the tongue glib, and showed more manifestation of the spirit.

In the early days, the mischievous youths were ever contriving some new sensation. "The Chriskingle," a monster improvised from a sheet with red patches sewn on it to represent mouth, nostrils and eyes, and well calculated to inspire the timid with terror, was gotten-up for Christmas Eve. The "Chriskingle" was put upon the head of one of the boys, who went from house to house opening the doors, and scaring the inmates with the monster. The New England people did not understand the custom of the journey of the Chriskingle; but, when they went among the Dutch, the Chriskingle was caught, and marched back in triumph, to be treated to cakes, cider and apples. W. E. Sooy once put on the Chriskingle, and went to the window of a wagon-maker at the center of Spencer, who happened to be sitting facing the window, where the terrible head appeared. Sooy scratched on the side of the house to attract the attention of Hayes, the wagon-maker, who, on looking up, saw the red mouth, the glaring eyes, the distended nostrils, and twisting and twirling horns. The sight was too much for the poor man, who, with a long-drawn "Oh—God, and must I go?" fainted dead in his chair! Sooy took to his heels as badly scared as the wagon-maker himself, thinking he had scared the poor fellow to death, and, until he heard that the wagon-maker was alive, he was rather uneasy.



It was generally conceded by the young folks that a newly married couple could not do well unless they went through the ordeal of a "horing" or "belling." The full paraphernalia of a belling expedition was about ten long tin dinner horns; eight or ten "horse fiddles;" any number of cow and dinner bells; from twenty-five to forty strong male voices, and two gallons of whisky. If the preceding receipt is well filled, we have a crowd that will make considerable noise. The demands of such a crowd was generally a sight of the bride and groom; an invitation to the house, and a treat to the wedding goodies. One autumn, a young swain from Chatham Township came to the river mills for his bride. After they were married, fearing a belling, they left the home of the bride, thinking to elude their tormentors, and fled to the house of Orson Marsh. Eight o'clock came and went, and all was still, save the occasional blare of a tin-bugle in the distance. Nine came, and they began to congratulate themselves on their seeming successful strategy. But where, all this time, was the regiment from Chatham and Spencer, which was expected? Forming, silent as shadows in line to march around the house—as they, with help of rye and wind, conferred the hymeneal blessing. The signal blast was blown, and nearly forty men made night hideous with their howls, as they swept in solid phalanx about the house which domiciled the startled bride and groom.

One of the participants in this affair said that it sounded as if the hounds of hell were let loose. This horrible din was kept up for a long time, but no bride or groom appeared. At last, one of the boldest ran up to a window, and, dashing his long tin-horn through one of the lights, blew a terrific blast, and was awarded by a dipper-full of buttermilk thrown into his face by the plucky bride. Near the house was a large pile of great yellow pumpkins, to which the crowd resorted. Pumpkin after pumpkin

was handed up to waiting hands on the roof, which deposited them into the top of the great chimney, where they never stopped until they struck the broad hearth below, and rolled to the feet of the startled inmates. It is needless to state that the door was opened, and the "bellers" bidden to enter. At another time, a large party of young fellows had been at a "kraut cutting;" but, not having their spree out, they determined to have some fun with a young fellow who had recently been married. Coming near his cabin, they sent a delegation to call him up and nab him, if possible, but he suspected something, and they could not arouse him. But they laid their heads together, and decided to get him by strategy. Accordingly, two went around near the cabin and talked, loud enough for him to hear, about stealing his chickens. Then two more were stationed near the door to catch him should he appear. The crowd then went around to the hen-roost, and made a great fuss with the poultry. Soon, the fellow cautiously opened the door, and peered out into the night, just as the two on guard caught him, and carried him out into the frosty night with loud yells of delight. The poor wretch was nearly frightened out of his senses, and piteously begged his tormentors to let him go. But they howled with delight to hear him beg, and see him run up and down the road between two stout fellows, his only dress, a shirt, fluttering in the cool air. After keeping him out in the cold till he was nearly frozen, they allowed him to return to his waiting spouse. There was a custom in early days, which only exists now in memory. The young people would collect on Christmas Eve, and go from house to house firing guns and bidding the inmates "Merry Christmas;" they were then asked in, and treated to cakes, apples and sometimes to cider. Christmas Day was spent in feasting, or, at the border shooting-match, where all the difficult tests were used to find who was the best "shot." Through the long winter evenings, the good-natured jest





was passed around, as they cracked nuts by the side of the blazing fire-place; and the hum of the spinning-wheel, or the bang of the loom, was heard in the cabins, as the busy housewives prepared wearing apparel for their families. One industrious young woman prepared her wedding outfit by the light of the fire, to which was frequently added a pork-rind to make it burn brighter. Her people required her services during the day, and were too poor to afford her candles. But she was too plucky to despair.

The stock of the settlers roamed at will over the woods. Each man had his particular mark, which was recorded thus: May 4, 1832, Phineas Davis made returns of his ear-mark for cattle, hogs and sheep (*viz.*), *a crop on the left ear and a slit in the right*. All stock required to be marked before they were six months old, as all stock found running at large, without marks, which was past that age, could be confiscated by the finder, or he could place his mark on it and call it his own. In winter, when feed was scarce, the men went out and felled trees for the stock to browse the small twigs. Though cattle got thin on this kind of feed, the settlers managed to keep them through the winter. In the spring, the ground was covered with leeks, which the cattle ate, causing the milk and butter to smell so strong as to compel people to eat onions before attempting to use either. Mosquitoes were so thick, that, before milking, a large smudge must be built to keep them off the cows. Each man had a bell on his stock; the tones he knew so well as to pick it out from the multitude of bells sounding on every side. So accustomed to the tones of the bell were some as to tell nearly the spot where the stock were feeding. When a settler wished to raise a crop of wheat, he would cut down the small trees, pile the brush around the large ones, and burn it. The wheat was sown among the trees and stumps, and dragged in with oxen.

Many of the people believed in witches, and relate incidents which are laughable in the extreme. One family was visited every day by a rabbit, which would play around the yard, and, when shot at with lead bullets, would merely scamper away. All the bad luck in the family was laid to the presence of the witch in the guise of a rabbit. So a piece of silver was "chawed" into a bullet and shot at the witch. Though the witch was proof against a leaden bullet, the silver one found a vulnerable part, and the rabbit limped off with a broken leg. And, as the story goes, a certain woman near by had a broken arm. The persecuted or bewitched family were freed from their persecutor. Some kept a horseshoe to heat and burn the witch out of the cream when the butter would not come.

The first white child born in the township was Samuel, a son of John P. Marsh, March 25, 1826. Samuel Marsh is now a resident of California.

The 2d of March, 1824, while crossing Black River on a log, Katy Davis fell into the river and was drowned. Miss Davis was a beautiful girl of sixteen summers, and loved by all. This was the first death in the township. She was buried in Harrisville. Stephen Harrington was the first person buried in the township. He was buried on a piece of land belonging to Linzey Bennett. This piece of land became a regular burial-ground, and was the first in the township. This first burial was in 1826. The coffin was made of some boards which John P. Marsh brought to the township in 1823. The first couple married in the township was Samuel Falconer to Margaret Bissett, by Ben Merwin, Justice of the Peace of Penfield in 1830.

Spencer seemed to be the common hunting-ground of the Wyandot and Sandusky tribes. Each fall, ten or more families pitched their wigwams along the streams of the township, and hunted until cold weather came, and then, like Arabs, "folded their tents and silently



stole away." These Indians were always honest and peaceable, often exchanging skins or furs for salt and flour. The settlers, in early days, procured their salt in Wooster or Elyria.

Having no fences, the cattle of the settlers used to wander off, at times, ten or twelve miles, and often several days elapsed before they could be found. At one time, the cattle of Mr. Marsh wandered off. He sent his son Orson, who, after three days' search, found them in the township of York. While gone, it stormed, and the river rose to full banks, and Orson began to think how he would cross. But, when he came to the place where the cattle generally forded the stream, they did not hesitate, but dashed into the water and swam across, except a large black ox which was behind. Orson, not knowing how else to cross, seized the black ox by the tail as he took to water, and was landed on the other bank in safety.

In the spring of 1833, great flocks of pigeons began to settle in the township and build their nests. Soon the south half of the township was completely filled with them. In the morning, until nearly 9 o'clock, the sun was obscured by them as they rose and flew in a northern direction. They came back at night, as they went, obscuring the sun, and bearing small white roots, which they fed to their young. When the young became old enough to fly, people came in wagons from all over the country, and carried the squabs away in bagfuls. It is supposed they flew over into Canada to feed in the morning, and flew back at night, bearing feed for the hens and young.

In this section of the country the wolves were very numerous, and sometimes attacked people in the woods. One afternoon, Mr. Marsh took his gun and started for Harrisville. When he had got part way, the sky became darkened with clouds, and the dense forests were dark as night. But he journeyed on until he saw he was lost; then he began to search for the path from which he had strayed. With the startling conscious-

ness of being lost in the woods, and the howls of the wolves echoing in his ears, he became more and more confused, and wandered through the woods for some time, when, through the gathering gloom, he beheld a leaning tree, which he scrambled up to avoid the wolves, which were gathering around him thick and fast. Discharging his gun at the row of shining eyes, he had the satisfaction of hearing one yelp with pain. He began to shout for help. After being in the tree over an hour, some people heard his shouts and came to his rescue. The wolves stayed about the tree until the light of the torches was shed upon them. On another occasion, Phineas Davis and his daughter were coming through the forests on horseback; he shot a deer, and hung it up, taking considerable time, which belated him. It grew very dark, and they became lost. Giving the horse the rein, and trusting to his sagacity, they listened to the howl of the gathering wolves. Soon they could hear their light footfalls, and hear them snarl and snap their teeth all around them, but too small in number and cowardly in disposition to attack the horse and his burden. "Hold on tight, Roxy," said the father, "I know where we are," and, giving the horse a cut with a switch, they were soon out in the clearing, thankful for their escape.

In the early history, we find an interesting incident, detailing the particulars of the falling of pioneer justice upon a man for beating his wife. A large party, dressed in women's garments, with blackened faces, called on the wife-beater and took him from bed and applied a coat of tar and feathers. Then the miserable wretch was put astride of a rail and ridden in solemn procession to a place in the woods, where, by the pale light of the moon, he saw preparations made to hang him. He promised and faithfully swore, never to beat his wife if they would let him go. Seeing how badly scared the poor wretch was, and believing he would do as he said, these black angels of justice let their victim depart for home, wearing the insignia of his





rank. He held to his promise. Among the ones who helped do the deed, was a very large, portly man. And the wife-beater, being asked if he knew any of them, said, "No, but there was one of the *biggest nigger wenches I ever saw.*"

Although there are many salt springs and wells in the township, there have been no attempts at making salt. There seem to be some other minerals besides salt in some of these wells. There are several gas-wells in the north half of the township, but it has never been utilized. On the farm of Addison Luce is a well 109 feet deep, where the gas came up so plentifully as to burn several days at an improvised burner. Two or three wells on the farm of Solomon Dimock threw up considerable gas.

Phineas Davis kept an accommodation for travelers, not exactly a tavern, at the River Corners, at an early date. Shubael Smith built and kept the first regular public house in the township. This stood on the square at the center. The first saw-mill was built at the River Corners, on Black River, by Calvin Spencer, in 1833. It was a water-power. The dam was built about six months before the mill, and Mr. Spencer began to get out lumber to build a grist-mill soon after.

Phineas Davis built the first grist-mill in Spencer in 1825. It was a log mill, run by water-power, and the bolter was run by hand. The mill-stones were made from hard boulders, the building being logs, and two stories high, and, when grinding, it shook as though it had the palsy. The water-power of this mill was destroyed when Spencer built his dam, which was a few hundred rods below. The people came a long way to this mill to get their grinding done. Sometimes they could not get it done the day they came, so they would stay and go home the next. The next grist-mill was built by Calvin Spencer. Although begun in 1831, and not entirely finished until 1836,

Spencer concluded to set up a saw-mill and saw out his own lumber. The grist-mill was raised in 1834. One of the men stood up on the ridge-pole and swung the bottle of whisky over his head, and proposed the following toast:

"Slow and easy, sure to come,  
Three years at it and just begun."

The toast is too suggestive to need any comment. This mill burned in 1879. It was a good mill. The building was a stanch framed one. These two mills gave the name "Spencer Mills" to that part of Spencer. One Buck built a distillery near the Spencer Mills. This was the only distillery in the township. Buck sold out to Sprague, who distilled peas, beans, pumpkins and pumpkin seeds, in fact anything that would foment, into whisky. This distillery changed hands several times, and was then converted into a tannery.

A number of "asheries" were built in early days to manufacture potash and pearl-ash from the great amount of ashes left in the piles where they burned the log-heaps. These ashes were taken care of, raked and piled together, and sold by the bushel to the manufacturers.

There were no very well known Indian trails in the township of Spencer. The earliest road in the township was the Smith road, which is the north boundary of Spencer. This road runs east and west, and was cut out in about 1812, by Capt. Smith, who passed through with a force of men and artillery. Smith cut only enough trees to pass his guns and supply wagons. When the first settlers came to Spencer, the brush was thick on this road, and, where it crossed the Black River, was seen the remains of a log bridge, and evidences of their camping there one night, or longer. When the first settler, John P. Marsh, came to Spencer, he came on a blazed road, and was obliged to cut the underbrush before his wagon could pass through. This was called the Elyria road, and was the first passable road after the township was settled. This road is now called the river





road, because it follows the course of Black River. The Wooster and Elyria plank road was built in 1851 or 1852, by a large company in Elyria, who thought to secure the grain trade of Wayne County. Each town along the route subscribed money and received shares as in a joint-stock company. The road was built of oak and elm plank, laid on oak stringers. It was twelve feet wide, with a pike on the west side. Toll-gates were placed five miles apart. This road cut the township into halves, running along the main north-and-south road. There was an immense amount of travel on this road, and, as expected, great quantities of wheat were brought from Wayne County to Elyria. Besides the pike running alongside of the plank, there were no piked roads in the township. At an early date, a mail route was established which ran from Wooster to Elyria. It was afterward stopped at Lagrange, and then changed, several years ago, to run from Wooster to Wellington, by the way of Penfield.

There have been several surveys, at different times, for railways through the township, but until the fall of 1880, there was but little work done on any of them. The line for the Wheeling & Lake Erie Railroad was surveyed through Spencer in 1874 for the first line, and work began shortly after. The road was then abandoned for want of funds, after much grading had been done on the southern end of the line. Along in the summer of 1880, a new company having been chartered, the present contractor, C. R. Griggs, W. A. Malk, President, and several other men connected with the road, came to Spencer and soon placed the interest of the road on its old footing. The required subscription was raised by the township before any other place on the line. The whole subscription of Spencer was \$15,000, in shares of \$50 each. The work on the road was begun in the fall, and was energetically prosecuted until cold weather caused them to desist. A contract was taken by C. W. Aldrich and W.

D. Orr, both of Spencer, to remove all timber, logs and brush from the line from Wellington to Lodi. This is the only contract taken by any of the citizens of Spencer.

The first bridge built in the township was by Capt. Smith. This bridged Black River where the Smith road crosses that stream. The first bridge built in the township after it was settled, was framed by C. Tuttle, of Harrisville. This structure bridged the South Creek, where this stream crosses the River road. There were but five men to raise the bents, and, as they were raising one of the heavy ones, it got the advantage of the men, and threatened to come down and crush them under it; but there were two women standing near, who, at this critical moment, dropped the babes which they were holding and assisted the men to raise it to position. The men afterward declared, that, but for the timely assistance of the plucky women, the bent would have come down and probably crushed some one of their number. The streams of Spencer are now bridged by elegant iron and wooden structures.

The collection of inhabited houses, generally known as the River Corners, though often spoken of as the River Mills, the Spencer Mills, or Blue Mills, was the first approach to a village in the township. Here the early township business was transacted. The first school-house was built here, and the first burying-ground laid out. John P. Marsh and Linzey Bennett were the owners of the land about the Corners. They purchased it of Samuel Parkman, of Vermont, the original proprietor of the township. There is not much of a story connected with its birth, more than it was composed of a few settlers, who desired neighborly intercourse, and was once the largest collection of dwellings which the township afforded. The superior advantages of the good water in any quantity, and the power derived from the river was what attracted the miller and sawyer,



whose mills named the place and built it. But later, the settlers gravitated toward the center of the township, and Centerville was formed. Abel Wood and Henry Wood, brothers, owned the land around the "Center." Abel Wood built the first cabin in 1832 or 1833, a little north of town. Centerville, although the name of the village and post office, is scarcely ever used by the citizens; they invariably say Spencer. Soon after the township was organized, the Center was rapidly populated. A schoolhouse was built southwest of the square; this was a frame building. A log church followed, and Elijah Banning opened the first store here. This was the first store in the township. The first post office was kept by Dr. Emory, on the River road, west of the River Corners, about three-fourths of a mile. Emory was the first practicing physician in the township. At an early date the settlers were obliged to go to Penfield for their mail. Emory kept the post office for some time, when it was moved to the center of Spencer, where it has since remained. Charles Daugherty was the Postmaster, after its removal, for a number of years.

The business interests of Spencer were greatly increased by the Wooster & Elyria Plank Road. J. W. Moore occupies a building south of the square, with the post office and a dry goods and grocery store. John Murray, on the corner, also keeps a dry goods and grocery store. A. T. Vanvalkenburg, opposite Murray, keeps a drug store; in connection he has a large trade in hardware and groceries, etc. All of these merchants occupy good buildings. F. Griessinger has lately built a neat and commodious building, in which he carries on an extensive business as tinner and hardware dealer. The town hall is a neat and roomy building of two stories high.

The Granger organization in Spencer has been strong and lasting. Their purposes are related to economy and agriculture. Their meetings are held in their storerooms on the

second floor of a fine building, owned by Dr. A. G. Willey.

The cemetery at the center of Spencer, was originally a private institution, owned by several men about Spencer, but at last was thrown open to the public. The sexton of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Samuel Fogle, has bestowed much care and taste in laying out and ornamenting this city of the dead. The Trustees have purchased lately the old school lot, and inclosed it as an addition to the cemetery.

The first religious organization in the township was a class of Methodists in 1827. The Rev. H. O. Sheldon was the organizer of this class, which consisted of seven members: Ruth Bizzard, Z. Harrington, Elizabeth Space, John Space, Phebe Goodwin and Mrs. John P. Marsh; William Goodwin was the first Class-leader. This class held their meetings at the houses of the members until the log schoolhouse was built, where they assembled to hear the Gospel. They had preaching every fourth Sabbath. This class organized and held their meetings at the River Corners. The Methodist organization was always a flourishing society. In 1839, they met to consider and consult in regard to building a church at the center of Spencer. After a great amount of consideration and deliberation, which occupied the committee until the 27th of August, 1842, they decided to build a church, 35x45 feet, with galleries on two sides and across one end. In 1844 or 1845, the church was built. The dimensions were as decided upon two years before.

This church was large and roomy, costing at least \$1,500.

In 1876, the society became strong, and, desiring a more comely and commodious place of worship, decided to build a new church. Accordingly, a committee was appointed to go and see different contractors, and decide upon the kind of structure and cost to build. They decided to build a brick church with two towers. This was in 1877. The building committee





contracted with David Myers, of Wayne County, to build a church upon a foundation which they would provide, for which he was to receive \$3,000. The church was built according to specifications, and dedicated in the spring of 1878. The church is brick, with large Gothic windows, supported on each side by sandstone-capped buttresses, which reach to the slate-covered roof. The windows are stained glass, of tasteful coloring. There are two towers, one on each front corner of the church. These towers are square, and present three sides; The other side is entered, at an acute angle, by the corner of the church proper. The tower to the east is the tallest, about one hundred feet in height, and contains a large bell. The ceiling and walls are tastefully frescoed. Two large chandeliers hang from the arched ceiling. The seating is in three parts, two side slips and double body slips. The seats and wainscoting are polished ash, trimmed with English walnut.

The Ladies' Church Society furnished the church very tastefully. Rev. Andrew McCullough was the Pastor, who was in charge of the circuit. This new church is situated on the same site as the old one, a short distance east of the square. The entire cost of the church was over \$4,000.

The first sermon preached in Spencer Township was on Universalism, by a minister of that denomination, in the house of John P. Marsh. The first hymn at this meeting ran as follows:

"Hear the royal proclamation,  
The glad tidings of salvation," etc.

It is said by some that Rev. Tillison, of Huntington, was the minister spoken of.

The first Sabbath school in the township was kept by Miss Sophia Tubbs, now the wife of the Rev. Abel Wood. Miss Tubbs was keeping school at the River Corners, in the old school-house in about 1831, and, there being no Sabbath school in the township, she opened a Sabbath school at the schoolhouse. Miss Tubbs distributed temperance tracts. A Mr. McCormick,

from Medina, lectured in the old log church on temperance. As he was speaking, bad eggs were thrown at him; "Throw them up if ye will, but I will not stop!" Though the ill-mannered roughs abused the heroic man, they could not hush his eloquent warning to those treading the paths of drunkenness.

The anti-slavery sentiment was very strong in Spencer. Several times were negroes fleeing from bondage fed and secreted by the people. Rev. O. E. Aldrich, a Free-Will Baptist minister, was ever bitter against the holding of chattelized humanity, and often from his pulpit were heard eloquent declamations against it.

Rev. Benjamin Taggart and Charles Hollinger, his assistant, are the Pastors now in charge of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Spencer.

The second church organization of the township was the Baptist Christian Church.

August 24, 1837, a number of people met at Elder Frederick Freeman's house, "to consider the propriety of uniting together as a church." This meeting adjourned to meet at the same place on September 21. They met as decided upon, and agreed to unite and fellowship as a church. After framing a constitution, setting forth their sentiments in a series of articles, it was signed by twenty-one persons, who constituted the original members of the church. But one of the original members of this church is now living in Spencer. Their first regular meeting was held December 9, 1837. The church was addressed by Elder F. Freeman, at this first meeting, from Peter, ii, 17, 18. These meetings were held at the residences of the members until the fall of 1843, when they determined to build a church. This church was built of hewn logs. It was situated on the main street, south of the square. The first meeting in the new house was held December 23, 1843. The seats were rude benches at first, and it was not plastered until some time in 1844. The records of this church are extant, and show



great care in keeping. They also show how strict and orthodox were the members. Their constitution, while terse and orthodox, was a practical wording of a sound doctrine. The hymns were sung by the congregation, and, when the hymn was not very well known, they "lined it." Though once a strong and vigorous organization, it became weak in 1850, and in 1852, it broke up and never again organized in Spencer. The remaining members joined with the church in Huntington.

The Free-Will Baptist Church was organized May 31, 1838. Rev. Cyrus Coulrain was the first Pastor. When this church was first organized, there were five members: John Inman, Stephen Inman, Sophrona Inman, Amanda Inman and Lois Parent. This organization grew in strength very rapidly, under the pastorship of Elders Knight and O. E. Aldrich. Their meetings were held at the houses of the members, until 1844, when they built a church. This church building is the same one in use now. It is a good, substantial frame building, and was raised on Christmas Day, in 1843, but was not completed until the fall of 1844, when the first Covenant meeting was held September 21. The organization is now existing, though not very strong. The only original members of this church living are Stephen Inman and Sophrona, his wife, who are regular attendants to the church, which is now under the charge of their second son, Rev. C. C. Inman. The Free-Will Baptist Church cost about \$700, but has been remodeled several times since it was built. It is now a neat and comfortable place of worship. The interior is much more inviting than the exterior suggests.

In the early settlement of the township, we find the school history intimately connected with the general mass of incidents which make up the early history of the township. As the land along the river road became occupied, the "Corners" became a sort of center, and the people hired William Bishop, for \$12 per month,

to keep a term of school. The money was raised to pay Bishop by assessing the scholars pro rata. This school was kept in a log cabin belonging to John P. Marsh. Elizabeth Bissett, Phineas Davis, Philip Bizzard, John Space, Orson Marsh and Sally A. Marsh composed his school. After this school broke up, Clarissa, wife of John P. Marsh, told the eager scholars, if they would keep quiet and orderly, she would pronounce words and set copies for them each evening. The interested scholars came each evening, and all thought their time well spent. Shortly after this, the settlers leased a lot of Linzey Bennett, for ninety-nine years, or as long as used for school purposes, and built a log schoolhouse. This house was built of notched logs with a door and two windows. The windows were spaces made by leaving out logs. Some sticks were placed across the opening, and paper pasted to them; this paper was then amply greased with hog's-lard. The door was a large blanket hung over the only way of egress and ingress. The first school kept in this house was by Phœbe Goodwin. In 1833, the schoolhouse was burned. It was supposed to have been the work of an incendiary. Some rather rough fellows made a disturbance at a spelling-school one evening, and, when the Directors dispersed them, they made threats against the house. Hence, it is supposed, that some of them fired the building. But the most unfortunate feature of this cowardly incendiarism was the burning of the books, which were so hard to procure. When the house was burned, the term of school was not finished, so John P. Marsh made a journey to Elyria and got books, and the term re-opened in his house, and kept there for six weeks.

Soon after the burning of the old log house, the people claimed the lumber promised by Calvin Spencer to build a new frame building. This building was to stand where the old one stood. It was completed some time in 1834. Charles Daugherty and Abel Wood went with





an ox-cart to Elyria after the trimmings, and were gone three days. It was of frequent occurrence that the small children were sent home, the benches taken up, the violin brought in, and the spelling-school changed into a dance. For nearly one winter, the spelling went on until nearly midnight, and then the spellers gayly danced to the sound of the "fiddle" till the wee hours of the morning.

The first schoolhouse built at the center of Spencer was a framed building. This building was situated on a back street, near where Mrs. David Dickson now lives. This building burned down. It was thought to have been the work of an incendiary. The schools kept at the Center were generally large. Soon after the burning of the old house, another was built on the same site.

The second time it burned to the ground, it was supposed that it took fire from some ashes which were left near the building. The next schoolhouse was built just east of the cemetery. This house was long used, and has been moved away, and converted into a shop.

The Trustees of the township purchased the lot which it stood on, and made it a part of the cemetery.

The next schoolhouse built was south of the town a short distance. This is the one in use to-day.

The district school system has been one productive of great good in the township.

There are six districts now in the township, and nearly all of these have a good attendance. Most of these houses are neat, painted and new, with improved furniture. About 1849, Rev. O. E. Aldrich opened a select school in the old log church. There was a good attendance. After Aldrich, were several other schools kept by Pierce, Grey and others. This Mr. Grey was a student of medicine, and he was so absorbed in the study that he taught the scholars in a sort of automatic way—never behind time, never too fast, but always just the same.

When he entered the schoolroom with his books in his hand, he walked stiffly up the aisle, looking neither to the right nor to the left. The scholars, becoming curious to know if the thing was alive that walked up the aisle and took its place behind the desk so regularly, pulled the primitive chandelier just low enough for the cup of sand which balanced it to hit Grey in the head as he stalked up the aisle. The old clock behind the desk was wound and set so as to strike twelve at 1 o'clock, just after school called. Grey came in as usual, and received a bump from the cup of sand, amid the tittering scholars. School was called, and he took his book and began his study, when the old clock solemnly tolled the hour of 12. Although he took the key away, a jack-knife took its place, and the next day the old clock chimed forth as on the day before. After a few such days, Augustus D. Grey left town; and, when the scholars came to school in the morning, they were as glad that he had gone as he was to get away.

There was a district school teacher kept school at an early date who lisped; and, one day, he was pronouncing words to be spelled, when he came to the word seam, which he pronounced *theme*, so the scholars spelled theme. "Not theme, but stheme—trowthers' leg," he excitedly lisped, rubbing his hand on his thigh amid the uncontrollable laughter of the scholars.

William Wallace Ross had a very large select school at the Center, of about one hundred and thirty scholars. These scholars came from long distances to attend the Spencer schools, which gained a high reputation. The schools of Spencer have degenerated, but Ross is now one of the most noted educators of the State.

The first literary society was organized at the river mills. They came according to appointment to the schoolhouse, but forgot to bring candles, and adjourned to the house of





Phineas Davis, where they debated the following question, "Resolved that man is more happy in a married state than in a single condition." The affirmative won their side (so the

judges said) by setting forth the advantages a married man had in coming home drunk to have some one to take care of him.

## CHAPTER XVII.\*

CHATHAM TOWNSHIP—A PILGRIM COLONY—PIONEER REMINISCENCES—A FLOURISHING TOWNSHIP—A GLORIOUS WAR RECORD—ITS CHURCH AND SCHOOL HISTORY.

THE light of freedom and civilization which landed with the Pilgrim Fathers at Plymouth Rock, and thence spread over New England, has passed into the broad and vast domain west of the Alleghanies, and now sheds its luster far and wide, over country, town and city. Every church bell tolls forth the onward march of the spirit of that Pilgrim band. Cottages and hamlets now dot the broad, green land of our country, and happiness and comfort reign within them. Little do we of to-day know of the hardships, struggles and privations that has made this possible. The trials and sufferings that were experienced by the Pilgrim fathers after their landing on the rocky New England coast, have been met again and again in the unbroken wilds of the West. Many of the first settlers of Chatham Township, tracing their ancestry back to families which came over in the Mayflower, cherish their memory as a priceless heritage. Like their venerable forefathers, these settlers found their lot in many respects similar to that of the Pilgrim ancestors, and how well they accomplished their task, is attested in the picturesque farm lands and the thrifty homes that are sprinkled over the township.

Chatham Township was set apart under the Connecticut Land Survey, as Township No. 2, of Range 16. Part of the township lands near its southern limit, was given under the provision of the Connecticut Land Com-

pany to the settlers of Harrisville Township adjoining on the south, to compensate for the swamp lands that are contained in the latter township. The geographical borders of Chatham Township, extend to Litchfield on the north, Spencer on the west, Harrisville on the south, and La Fayette on the east. Its area corresponds with that of the other townships of Medina County. The general level of the township is much below that of the three which lie east of it. There is a rapid fall from the center road to the west, amounting to nearly 200 feet in the three miles to the east branch of Black River. The Cuyahoga shale is exposed on Gray's Creek, which flows along the western border of the township, and empties into Black River near the east-and-west center road in Spencer. The upper stratum is a very hard, shaly sandstone, quarried for foundations. The gray, soft shale is much like that on Rocky River, below Abbeyville, in York Township, and contains similar lenticular concretions of iron, but the limestone concretions are here very few. The fossils are not well enough preserved in this shale to be of value as cabinet specimens. The under surface of the thin layers of shaly sandstone, which occur every few inches in these beds, show abundant tracings of fossil forms, but none of them are distinctly marked. A boulder estimated to weigh eleven or twelve tons, can be seen in the bed of Gray's Creek, two miles west of the center of the township.

\*Contributed by Charles Neil.



The first settlement on land which now belongs to Chatham Township, was made by Moses Parsons in the year 1818. He bought a tract of several hundred acres of land, located about three miles north of Harrisville Center, and which had gone under the control of Samuel Hinckley, of Massachusetts, and was then known as the Hinkley tract. It was in the month of April, 1818, that Moses Parsons, with his wife and four children—three sons and one daughter—arrived from the East in the Harrisville settlement. Originally from Massachusetts, having been born in the town of Palmer, of that State, he had, shortly after his marriage to Elizabeth Craft, also a native of the Bay State, removed to New York State. His wife was the daughter of Maj. Edward Craft, a soldier in the Revolutionary army, and for a time doing service on the staff of Gen. Washington.

In the month of February, 1818, Mr. Parsons started with his family from his home near the town of Middlesex, which is now Yates, in Ontario County, N. Y., with two yoke of oxen and one span of horses, westward. Their scanty supply of household furniture and necessary provisions, with a small lot of farming implements and tools, was carried on sleds, about the only kind of conveyance in vogue at that time among the emigrant movers. It is partially from this reason that these emigrants selected the winter months, when the ground was covered with snow, for their journeys into new lands. They traversed, after having left New York State, the northern part of Pennsylvania, and entered Ohio on its northeastern border. In the course of seven weeks from the time they had left Middlesex, and after the many tedious and laborious advances from day to day, they finally, in the middle of April, reached their destination in the Harrisville settlement, in Medina County. The settlement in which Mr. Parsons with his family landed, was already quite extensively populated, and was then

fast growing into a large colony. A civil organization had already been effected by its inhabitants. A purchase of the land already described was made by the new-comer, of the resident land agent, Mr. Joseph Harris; and, leaving his wife and two children with the family of Mr. Bishop, a resident settler in Harrisville, Mr. Parsons started with two of his boys, a yoke of oxen and a span of horses, for the tract of land he had bought, to make a clearing and erect a place of habitation. They ascended the bluff on the east side of the East Branch of Black River, from the village of Lodi, and cut their way through the woods northward. They kept along the river bank as well as the surface of the ground would permit, and, when their point of destination had been reached, they selected a spot on an eminence close to the little stream, on which they placed their stakes for a new home. A clearing was commenced, trees chopped down; logs were rolled together, and the building of a little log cabin was at once put under progress. Industriously they kept at work, and, within four weeks the primitive structure was completed. The logs had been put together in quadrangular shape, the crevices had been patched up with sticks and mud, and a covering of heavy sticks and branches had been put overhead, an opening in one of its sides, overhung by a blanket, served as a door to afford ingress to the space within. After this work had been completed, Mr. Parsons with his two boys cut a winding roadway through the woods down to the Harrisville settlement, and then removed his entire family with all of his effects into the new locality. Small patches of land were cleared by the new settlers with all the diligence at their command, and put under immediate cultivation by putting in corn, oats and potatoes. By the oncoming fall, they were then enabled to gather a small crop of grain and potatoes for their own sustenance. For several years they lived here alone, almost entirely isolated in their habita-





tion. The Harrisville people were their nearest neighbors. They kept up communication with their neighbors on the south, and on different occasions journeyed thitherward to do a little shopping, get a supply of powder, nails, cloth and such necessities as they stood in need of in their agricultural life, to exchange greetings, and talk over the common affairs of life. Wolves and bears at that time roamed through the woods, and they were both a terror and an annoyance to the settlers.

It is related by Mr. DeForest Parsons, a son of the first settler, now a retired minister of the Gospel living in Harrisville, that at one time, when he was a lad thirteen or fourteen years old, while walking from the Harrisville settlement, to which he had been sent by his father, he encountered a pack of wolves in the woods. He was then nearly a mile from home, and became terribly frightened. But it seems the beasts were as much taken with fear as the pioneer lad, for they disappeared quickly at sight of him in one direction, while he with equal dispatch widened the space between himself and his carnivorous friends in the other. A great event occurred in the Parsons family in the summer of 1820. It was the birth of a male child. It was named Holden by the family, and the father, after the name of this new-born child, the first in the colony, baptized the new settlement Holden. By that name it was known until after the political organization of the township, when it was called Chatham, after the town of that name near London, in England.

Considerable advances had now been made by the settlers in the clearing and cultivation of their lands. From ten to fifteen acres were yearly put into crops, and their harvests increased in quantity. The raccoons, ground-hogs and other small wild animals that abounded in the entire region of the country, were a great deal of trouble to them in the way of destroying their crops. The injury done by these animals was the more vexatious to the farmers, as

they could not invent or avail themselves of any means to stop the rapacity of these pilfering beasts. The farmers stood in far more dread of these animals than they did of the bears and wolves which prowled about. It was not difficult to the settler to administer a dose of well-meant and direct advice to these, in the shape of powder and lead, to remain in the distance, and this admonition was quite generally well observed by these larger animals.

In the fall of the year 1820, Nathan Hall, afterward known in the settlement as Deacon Hall, removed his family from Connecticut out West, and settled on the Hinckley tract, in Chatham, one and one-half miles west of the Parsons place. It had been but a few months prior to this that a young fellow named Henry K. Joline, from New York State, had made his advent at the Parsons home. His mission to the new country soon became apparent. He had not been in the settlement a month when the announcement of his impending marriage to Eleanor A., eldest daughter of Moses Parsons, was made known. It was the result of a tender affection that had sprung up between the two young people during their residence in New York State. The young lover had followed the choice of his heart to her new home in Ohio, and had asked for her hand in marriage from her parents. Their consent was readily given, and the two were made one.

Out of this little romance grew the first marriage in Chatham Township. The wedding ceremonies took place at the Parsons home on a July day. Erastus Parsons, a brother of the bride, was dispatched to the Sullivan settlement, in Huron County, fourteen miles distant, to secure the services of Esquire Close, of that locality, to tie the legal bonds of the marriage union. The messenger piloted the magistrate through the woods to the Harrisville settlement, both going afoot, and thence they made their way to the Parsons home. The ceremonies were conducted in very simple style;



there were but a few guests from Harrisville aside from the different members of the family, and there were no cards. The two young people stood up in the middle of the narrow little cabin, arrayed in their best homespun apparel, and joined hands together, while the legal functionary pronounced the usual wedding formula. Congratulations, plain and simple and heartfelt, were extended to the newly united couple. A frugal wedding feast had been prepared, and was then partaken of by all present, amidst the happiest and best of good feeling all around. The day's festivities closed with a bridal tour down to the Harrisville settlement. Two choice pair of oxen were yoked to a sled, which had been filled with clean straw, over which had been spread bed-quilts to prevent the straw from sticking to the bride's wedding dress of flannel and the groom's linen trousers. Two of the brothers of the bride guided the horned team, while the young couple, in company with the sedate Squire occupied the sled in comfortable glee. Their arrival in the Harrisville colony created quite a commotion among the people there for the time being. Toward evening, the young couple returned to the home of the old folks. Squire Close remained with the people in Harrisville overnight, and, on the next day, returned as he had come, afoot, to his home in Sullivan. Henry Joline, with his young wife, took up his abode for a short time in the cabin of the old folks, while a new one for their own use, on a tract of land a little to the northwest, which the young husband had bought, was put in course of construction. The little cabin was completed, with the assistance of Mr. Parsons and his sons, in a very few weeks, and the young couple then moved into their new home, and made things as comfortable for themselves as they possibly could under the circumstances.

By persistent and industrious application, Mr. Parsons had, with the assistance of his sons, by this time, placed a large share of

his farm under an advanced state of cultivation. He had planted an acre or so of ground with young apple-trees, which, in the course of six or eight years, began to bear fruit. His grain fields grew in size from year to year, and it was not many years after he had made his settlement that he had turned a considerable patch into a growing meadow-field.

In the year 1821, Amos Utter, with his family, settled in the neighborhood. They located on a tract of land about a mile west of Mr. Parsons' farm. A few years later, that part of Chatham Township in its northwest corner, which was for some time known as "New Columbus," was colonized by Virginia settlers. Among them were Phineas and Truman Davis, Isaac Vandeventer, William Foltz and Orr Parmeter. These people settled on the low lands near Black River, in the northwest corner, and they held but little or no communication with their neighbors, four miles southeast. They formed a colony among themselves. Their culture was of a manner distinctly different. These people lived in a "happy-go-easy" style, varied with a touch of indolence that is characteristic of all classes in the South. They erected shanties for their families, but made no particular nor very great productive progress in the clearing and cultivation of the lands. Within the first few years of their presence in this new country, one of its members, Phineas Davis, put up a little "pocket" grist-mill, to which he shortly added a small distillery. Most of these people removed from this section in the course of time, casting their fortunes in other localities, and there is to-day no trace of these people left in the township, except what can be recalled from memory by the older inhabitants. In the meantime, another addition had been made to the number of inhabitants in another part of the township—in the southwest. Several families had come from Massachusetts, among them being Nebediah Cass, William Goodwin and Pleasant Feazle. They all settled





in the immediate neighborhood of the Parsons settlement. There were now by this time, about in the year 1826, ten families permanently located on the Hinckley tract, which comprised the entire southern half of Chatham Township. The entire northern half was under control of Wadsworth Brothers, of Massachusetts, and was known as the Wadsworth tract.

In the month of November, 1832, Ebenezer Shaw, with his wife and family of three children, arrived in the settlement and took possession of several hundred acres of land on the Hinckley tract, for which he had traded his farm near Cummington, in Massachusetts. Mr. Shaw was a class-mate of William Cullen Bryant in the public schools of their native town of Cummington, Mass. Young Shaw was also, like his chum, Willie Bryant, quite a hand at verse-making, during their school days. He has, in after years, always fostered a love for the metric art. In their early school years, he had become even more distinguished among his friends and school-mates for his talent in making verses than his friend Bryant. Young Bryant removed to Williams College, from thence to New York and into the temple of fame; his friend, Ebenezer Shaw, married and settled and cultivated a farm, and joined the pioneer band that transformed the unbroken forests of the West into bright and glowing fields. In company with Shaw and his family, came Barney Daniels, with wife and five children, and Joel Lyon and wife and three children, all of whom came from the town of Plainfield, only a short distance from Cummington, both towns being located in the county of Hampshire. The three families together journeyed by wagon to Troy, N. Y., and from there took passage on a canal-boat on the Erie Canal to Buffalo, and thence sailed on a little lake craft to Cleveland. Their journey from that point to Medina was made in wagons, arriving at the latter point within two days after they had left the lake port. This was on a Friday

afternoon. Remaining overnight at the little tavern that was then serving the public, they proceeded the next morning for the Harrisville settlement, going by the way of Chippewa Lake and Morse's Corners, reaching Lodi on a Sunday afternoon. They were received with open hospitality by the Harrisville people. On the next morning (Monday) they moved into the new settlement. These people had to encounter all the difficulties that attend a pioneer location. The first thought was a place of shelter for man and beast. In many instances, the settler merely erected for the time being a "brush hut," erecting four corner-posts, and with cut poles and brush covering the top. This would generally serve them until a more substantial structure, with inclosed sides and a fire-place, could be erected. Winter was close at hand when these three Massachusetts families arrived in the Chatham settlement, and they experienced severe discomfiture in locating, on account of the blustering storms of the season. Ebenezer Shaw located with his family in a log cabin that had been erected by Moses Parsons, several years previous to the arrival of the new-comers. The first experiences of these families in the approaching winter days were, therefore, of a less trying nature than that of their companions, who were entirely left to their own resources to provide themselves with a place of habitation.

The arrival of these several families was followed in the next spring by other Massachusetts people. John Shaw and wife, with two grown-up daughters, and Randall Dyer, with a family of five children, made their appearance in the settlement, and squatted in contiguous places to their predecessors.

In the course of this year, the number of families in the colony was increased by a dozen or more new arrivals, among them being the Packard families, who occupy a conspicuous place in the annals of the township. There were Iram, Amansa, William Francis, Josiah, Jonathan and Phillip Packard, with their different





families. Lemuel Allis, Gideon Gardner and Daniel Richards were also among the new-comers. They had all come from the Bay State by the same circuitous route that had been taken by their friends before them to Troy, thence by the Erie Canal to Buffalo, Lake Erie and Cleveland, and then by slow stages and wagons into the interior settlement. Every accession of new colonizers was greeted with joy by the older settlers. For days the new arrival entertained his new neighbors with news from his old home, and his adventures of travel on his way hither. In return, he was repaid with well-meant advice and substantial aid to start on his way in making a settlement.

A number of young men from Wooster made annual hunting incursions into Chatham Township in the first years of the settlement, having a little brush cabin in the northern part, and remaining there for days at a time. Their presence and hunting of wild game did not particularly annoy the Chatham settlers; but it was during this time that many of their hogs, running wild in the woods, very mysteriously disappeared. They entertained suspicions that the Wooster hunters were the guilty parties. So one night a few settlers armed with guns, pitchforks and axes, and led by Uncle Dan Prickett, surrounded the hunters' camp and demanded that a search should be made of the premises to learn if there were not some fresh meat concealed among their traps. A parley ensued which grew very hot, and put both sides in belligerent attitudes. Bob Ewing, the leader of the Wooster hunters, drew a line of demarkation around the camp with the butt of his gun, and with his rifle at cock declared "that the first Chatham man who stepped over these bounds would be a dead man." Finally the Wooster men submitted to a search of their camp, and, as no signs of pork were found, the whole affair ended in a mutual good-feeling, and the hunters thereafter continued their sport unmolested.

One of the difficulties that beset the pioneers

in new lands was that of roadways. The Chatham people experienced a great deal of trouble in this line for a number of years. It was several years after Moses Parsons had settled in the township, when, by an act of the Legislature, a road was built from north to south, running from Elyria, in Lorain County, to Wooster. The construction of township roads did not begin until the year 1834. These roads were built by order of the County Commissioners. The first one completed was the West River road, diverging from the Elyria-Wooster road at a point one and one-half miles north of Lodi, and leading into the low lands along the banks of Black River, which had by this time been well settled; going along the stream, it passed into Spencer Township. Several years later, the Center road, passing through the township from east to west, was constructed. At the present date the township is well provided with roads, making all points within its confines easily accessible.

Of no less serious and perplexing annoyance than that which was caused the settlers by the absence of roads, was the scarcity of a circulating medium of exchange. "These were terribly tough times with us," as one of the surviving settlers expressed, "we could not get money of any kind. Could not sell anything, only in trade. What little we saved from our crops above our own subsistence, we took to Elyria, and there sold it for half in trade and half money, and none of us would scarcely ever return with more than \$5 or \$6 in coin. This would sometimes have to do us for a year or more." Speaking of the postal arrangements in the township in these days, the venerable gentleman gave the following information: "Our letters arrived at the Harrisville Post Office, and were directed 'Township 2, Range 16.' Every letter we received cost us 25 cents, and it went quite hard with us many times to draw our letters for want of sufficient funds. Many letters remained in the



post office for months, because the owners did not have money enough to pay for the delivery."

On the 5th of December, 1833, a separate political organization of Chatham Township was effected, forming Township 18, in the succession of organization in Medina County. The first Board of Township Trustees elected at the first town election, consisted of Nebediah Cass, Iram Packard and Joel Lyon. In the spring of 1835, Orin Shaw was elected as the first Justice of the Peace in the township. With the separation into a civil organization, the inhabitants of the colony became inspired with a new life. They were dependent now, in more ways than one, of their neighbors on the south—the Harrisville people, who had then had a civil organization for more than fifteen years, and who had, in the few years gone by, been very apt to look upon their Chatham neighbors in a sort of patronizing way, and had considered them merely as a political appendage. During the succeeding years, Chatham has served as a quite prominent factor in the political history of Medina County. During the Abolition movements in ante bellum days, some of the citizens of this township became noted for their active and decisive support of this famous cause. That the predominant sentiments of the people of Chatham is strongly anti-slavery, is evidenced by the township election statistics during the last thirty years. Out of an average total of about two hundred and fifty voters for the last twenty years, about one hundred and seventy-five have taken sides with the party that abolished slavery and suppressed the rebellion. It is one of the "stalwart" townships in the "stalwart" county of Medina.

A few years subsequent to the formation of the township, the families of Luther and Levi Clapp and Alvan Thayer moved in from the East, settling on the Wadsworth Tract, in the northern half of the township. This half, which had not been so early colonized as the

southern part, was now also rapidly becoming settled. Emigrants were coming in fast, and the open spaces in the woods made by the pioneer's ax, were growing in numbers. It was about the year 1838, after the east-and-west road had been located and cut through, that several houses, of somewhat more imposing shape than most of the little farm cabins that were scattered over the township, were erected at the Center. The general interests of the township gradually drifted toward the geographical center of the township. The elections and "town" meetings were held in a log school-house that had been put up at the Center, and which also served the purposes of a Union Meeting-house for the different denominations who were residents in the township.

An event that marks an epoch in the history of the township, was the bringing-in of an assortment of general merchandise and the establishment of a country store. This occurred in the fall of 1839. Previous to that the "trading" of the Chatham people had been done at Lodi, whose local mercantile affairs had grown into a flourishing state of development, even before the sister township on the north had been opened up with highways. The arrival of the goods in Chatham caused great rejoicing among its inhabitants. Mr. Josiah Packard was the man who had invested his capital and energy in the enterprise. He had started in the summer with two ox teams for the city of Pittsburgh, taking with him a cargo of grain and produce. After an absence of several months, he returned with a full supply of "store" goods. His return had been anxiously looked for by his neighbors. A little frame structure had been erected at the corner of the La Fayette road, one mile directly south of the center, and in this Mr. Packard located his goods after his arrival, and opened up a regular "country" store. Two years later Eli Goodell opened a small store at the Center. A short time later than this, an ashery and small grocery store





was established in this same locality, by the firm of Webster & Packard. In 1843. Randall Dyer & Son located a general village store at the "Center," being yet at this date in operation under sole control of one of the sons.

A post office was established here in the year 1844. Mr. William Jordan was the first appointed Postmaster, and he discharged its functions for a number of years. The mail route extended from Lodi to the village, Caleb Edson carrying the mail afoot, once a week, between the two points. In later years, Chatham has formed a station on the Wooster and Elyria mail line, and there are now two daily mails.

In close connection with the mercantile affairs of the township, is the growth of its industries, though it forms no very prominent part in its history. Jonathan Packard erected the first saw-mill, in the western part of the township. The frame-work of a saw-mill that had once been conducted at the town of Seville, in Guilford Township, was removed, by Horatio Lyon, in 1845, and was put up at a short distance southeast of the center of Chatham, on the Branch River. In 1868, Mr. D. P. Fellows erected a cheese-factory—the largest establishment of its kind in Medina County—near the Center. He conducted it for several years, and was then followed by Allan Lewis, for two years, then Alfred Ballou, and it is now under control of Maj. W. H. Williams. This factory forms one of the most prominent factors in the agricultural-industrial pursuits of the township.

As has already been stated, the people of Chatham Township, have stood out prominent among their neighbors in sister townships, for their patriotic zeal and the interest they have generally manifested in the National affairs. Many of its sons joined the ranks of the Union army, and bled and died for their country. The historian can point with pride, upon the part the Chatham boys took in the great National drama. A grand recognition for the services rendered by its sons to the county has been

made by the people in the township in the Soldiers' monument that stands erected in the public square of Chatham Village. On the strength of a legislative enactment, passed in the winter of 1865, by the General Assembly of Ohio, the project of a monument to the memory of the soldiers of Chatham Township, which had been promulgated, even prior to the passage of the act, by the leading citizens of the township, was brought to completion in the summer of 1866.

The Chatham Monumental Association was formed in the fall of 1865 at the Congregational Church in the village. At the first meeting held, Luther Clapp was chosen President, Edward Talbott, Treasurer, and A. W. Richards, Secretary. The Board of Directors elected at the first meeting, consisted of the following gentlemen: Jonathan Packard, J. E. Vance, J. M. Beach, Thomas S. Shaw, S. C. Ripley, F. R. Mantz, D. Palmer, Luther Clapp and S. H. McConnell. Subscription books were at once opened and voluntary aid solicited by the properly appointed committees, for the furtherance of the patriotic scheme. The people of Chatham gave with open hands and free hearts. Before winter had passed away, nearly \$1,600 had accumulated in the hands of the Treasurer of the association. A committee, consisting of Luther Clapp, Jonathan Packard, S. C. Ripley, Edward Talbott and A. W. Richards, was elected to purchase a monument and select a site on which it should be erected. A contract was entered into with a Cleveland firm, and, by the 20th of June, it stood completed on its present site in the center of the village. The dedicatory services were held on the 4th of July following, and it formed a day worthy of remembrance in future ages. A vast concourse of people gathered to participate in the festivities. People came in procession from different directions. The exercises were opened with an invocation by the Rev. William Moody, which was followed with patriotic airs by the



Chatham Glee Club and the martial bands in attendance. Col. Allan W. Richards read the "Declaration of Independence," and an oration was delivered by the Rev. G. S. Davis. A recess for a grand Fourth of July dinner was then taken, after which the dedication services proper, of the monument, commenced. The dedicatory prayer was delivered by the Rev. DeForest Parsons, after which the Hon. Harrison G. Blake gave the oration that he prepared for the occasion. It was a fête day that will cling to the memory of the Chatham people as long as the shapely mass of stone that commemorates the noble deeds of her sons stands in its midst. The monument stands upon an octagon-shaped mound; its foundation is of solid Berea stone, the sub-base is a marble block four feet square and three feet high. Upon this stands the marble shaft, which is surmounted by the American eagle, cut out of Parian marble. On the four sides of the shaft the names of the soldiers who enlisted in Chatham Township are engraven, with the date of enlistment and their commands.

The church history of Chatham Township begins at a date which records its first settlement. The Parsons family were earnest and devout Methodists, and, from the first day of their life in the new country, they continued to render homage to the God on high in family worship and prayer. At various times, Mr. Parsons journeyed with his family to the Harrisville settlement to attend the divine services held there by itinerant ministers who had commenced to pass through that locality at regular intervals. After the addition of several more families to his own, Mr. Parsons secured the services of different Methodist circuit-riders to call at the colony and conduct regular worship. Among the first of these, were the Rev. James Gilroof and Rev. Anson Brainard. Services were held sometimes in the log cabin, and sometimes in the open barn. This continued for several years, until 1832, when a

regular church organization was effected, and Chatham was added as a regular station to the Wellington Circuit. Regular church meetings were now held every four weeks. The Rev. Mr. Harris, of Black River, at a later day a Bishop in the Methodist Episcopal Church of America, was for a time one of the riders who called at the Parsons home regularly. In connection with these early church matters, we must record part of the life of one of the sons of Mr. Moses Parsons, the Rev. DeForest Parsons, at present a retired minister of Genesee (N. Y.) Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He had been apprenticed to a trade by his father in 1823, when he was twenty years of age, in Painesville, some miles east of Cleveland. While in that town, a "revival" had been put in progress, in which the young mechanic joined, and he was so affected by the religious movement that he finally abandoned his trade and returned to New York State, where had been his former home, and commenced the study of the ministry of God. In the course of four or five years, he was ordained and given a charge in the church. He now made several visits of an indefinite length of time at his father's home in Ohio, and while there preached to the people. The meetings which had at first been held in private houses, took place after the organization at the log schoolhouse two miles south of the center of Chatham, and were continued there for a number of years. Another Methodist Church society was formed by the settlers in the northern half of the township about the year 1838. They held meetings and had divine worship. In 1850, the two societies joined together and built a church edifice at the center. The Rev. Ralph Wilcox was officiating minister when the union was formed. The society has now about 120 members enrolled on its church book.

The First Congregational Church of Chatham is to-day the largest in number and the most influential of the church organizations in the





township. It was formed on the 1st of May, 1834, under the union plan, and joined to the Presbytery of North America. The following were the first members: Gideon Gardner, Philip Packard, Gaylord C. Waner, Orrin Shaw, Joel Lyon, Amasa Packard, Barney Daniels, Iram Packard, Ebenezer Shaw, George Packard, Jacob Packard, Eleanor Joline, Celia Richards, Martha Waner, Sarah P. Shaw, Mehitable Lyon, Abigail Packard, Mehitable Daniels, Nancy Shaw, Miss Sarah Packard and Miss Vesta Richards. The form of admission, with articles, of faith and covenant and welcome of the Presbyterian Church, was unanimously adopted at the time of organization on May 1, 1834. In 1835 thirteen more members joined the church, and its number increased from year to year. In 1842, a split occurred in this society, and the church was re-organized on the Congregational order of faith the year following. The Rev. Caleb Burbank was called to preach to the new congregation, and he continued the resident Pastor of the church for eight years. Steps for the building of a new church edifice were taken in the spring of 1844. The building was completed in the fall of 1846, when the pews were sold, and worship in the new house commenced. From that date on, meetings have been held by this society regularly on succeeding Sabbath Days. The membership of the church has increased until it now numbers about 300.

The Dunkard Society of Brethren commenced public worship in the township, after the large meeting-house erected by them in the spring of 1871, on the farm of Tobias Hoover, near the banks of Black River, had been completed. Rev. Joseph Rittenhouse and Samuel Garver are the officiating ministers of this and the adjoining Homer Church, of this denomination. The meetings alternate in these two churches from Sunday to Sunday. The followers of Alexander Mack form one vast brotherhood, and the lines in the local organization in

this religious denomination are but indistinctly drawn. Simple in their form of faith, they worship as one single organization.

The history of Chatham Township would be quite incomplete without a proper and full reference to the origin and growth of its public schools. A private school was taught by a Mrs. George Cook, living at that time in Litchfield Township on the north, in the summer of 1827, in the few log cabins that were then scattered through the township. She had but six scholars. The year following, the first attempt at school teaching in the colony was supplemented by the effort of Miss Vesta Richards, who taught a private school for several years in succession, at different private dwellings. After the organization of the township a little log school hut was put on the north-and-south road, two miles south of the center. A subdivision of the township into school districts was made by the Board of Trustees on the 6th of March, 1843. In many of the townships of the Western Reserve counties, select schools, for the instruction of children, which were subject to special tuition fees, were instituted. This was done in Chatham Township in 1858, and from that time on annual sessions have been held regularly. In this connection, an effort was made in 1867 by the people of the township to have a large school or "academy" building, for special school purposes, erected. The effort soon assumed definite shape, and at the township election in the spring of 1867, the project was submitted to a vote of the people. It was carried by a small majority. The work of building a new schoolhouse for such purposes as had been designed, was by law vested in the Township Board of Education. A building committee was appointed, and, at the board meeting held on May 4, the following contract was submitted by them to the board:

Your committee beg leave to report, that, pursuant to authority given by the board, they have advertised for and received proposals to build a Central or High





School house according to the plans and specifications adopted by the board, with such alterations in said plans and specifications as your committee were authorized to, and deemed necessary to make, and have executed a contract with Silas C. Ripley and W. G. Tilley for the building of the same for the sum of \$4,846 (the lowest accepted bid); said house to be completed on or before the 15th of August, 1868, and your committee would respectfully ask that they be authorized, on or about the 15th of March, 1868, to make an estimate of value of labor and material furnished to that date by said Ripley & Tilley, and if this committee shall find it to be in accordance with the terms of said contract, that they be authorized to certify the same to the Township Clerk, and your committee would further ask that the Township Clerk be instructed that on receipt of said certificate, he return an order to said Ripley & Tilley upon the Township Treasurer for the sum of \$1,211.80.

J. D. WHITNEY,  
*Chairman.*

This report was adopted by the board. The construction of the new building was, then put in progress, and continued during the year. It was nearing completion in the spring of 1868, when, through the strenuous opposition that had been made to the project by some of the citizens of the township, the contract then existing between the Board of Education and the school-building contractors was declared null and void by a vote of resolution by the board. Suit was brought by the contractors against the township. After many heated and lively discussions upon this topic that was then engrossing the attention of the citizens of Chatham to

the exclusion of almost everything else, the matter was satisfactorily adjudicated by arbitration. To finish the building, then, a special tax levy had to be voted for, and this caused one of the fiercest contests known in the annals of the township. The proposition was carried by a small majority, and the building was thereafter soon completed. A special term of school was opened in the new structure by T. B. Randall, in the spring of 1870. He was followed in the next year by J. D. Stoneroad, who rented it for a term of several years.

The township is to-day subdivided into eight school districts. The school enumeration, taken on the 1st of September, 1879, shows 132 male and 115 female children between the ages of six and eighteen, in the township, making a total of 247 school children. The following abstract is taken from the Township Clerk's statement:

Balance on hand, September 1, 1879.....	\$1,160 26
State tax.....	438 00
Irreducible school funds.....	28 07
Township tax for schools and schoolhouse purposes.....	1,224 44

Making a total of.....\$2,850 77

The spirit of the people of Chatham Township is in accord with all the movements of popular education, and its educational affairs rank equal with those of any township in the county.





## CHAPTER XVIII.

BRUNSWICK TOWNSHIP—GEOLOGY—EARLY SETTLEMENT—FIRST OFFICERS—ORIGIN AND GROWTH OF INDUSTRIES—INCIDENTS OF PIONEER LIFE—VILLAGES—EDUCATION—RELIGION.

SEVENTY years ago, the now densely populated township of Brunswick was a tangled wildwood and wilderness, wherein were found the rude deer-skin wigwams of the Indians and the winding trails and hidden lairs of numerous species of wild animals. The report of the settler's rifle and the echo of his ax were unknown, save those made by wandering hunters, who roamed without fear through the dark forests in quest of more stirring adventure than that found near the border settlements. Occasionally, bands of hostile savages, in war-paint and feathers, armed with rifle, tomahawk and scalping-knife, were seen gliding like shadows through the deep woods, on their mission of death and desolation. War with Great Britain was declared, and the Nation called to its brave men to

"Come, strike the bold anthem, the war dogs are howling,

Already they eagerly snuff up their prey;  
The red cloud of war o'er our forest is scowling,  
Sweet peace spreads her wings and flies weeping away."

The borderers, responsive to the call, flew to the forts, and prepared to fight to the bitter end for their homes and loved ones. After a time, the storm of war subsided, the Indians sued for peace and retired farther into the fastnesses of the forest; the borderers returned to their partially-cleared homes, and the unbroken wilderness of Ohio was visited by thousands of settlers seeking homes.

Brunswick Township was first settled in the spring of 1815, although the land had been

purchased previously, and was then owned in tracts of different sizes by several men residing in the East, who offered it for sale at prices ranging from \$125 to \$3 per acre. The surface soil is largely clay, with frequent outcroppings of sand. The turnpike, which crosses the township north and south, a half-mile west of the Center, is located upon an elevated ridge, where large beds of sandstone are exposed. This stone has been quarried more or less since the earliest times, and is of a coarse texture, so stained and discolored with iron oxides as to mar the beauty of the stone. A large semi-circular ridge, elevated in a gradual slope above the surrounding country sixty or seventy feet, is located about a mile north of the Center, and reveals inexhaustible beds of the coarse sandstone. On the farm of William Bennett, where a small stream has its source, near his residence, is a ravine, probably sixty feet in depth and about the same in width, where perpendicular embankments of the stone may be seen. Extending out through the side of the entire depth of the ravine and back from it seventy or eighty feet, is a natural crevice, varying in width from six inches to two feet. On the bank above, and over this crevice, Mr. Bennett has erected a large building for storing apples, vegetables, etc., and the crevice on the ground is left uncovered, thus affording much-needed ventilation during the winter months. Large quantities of stone are being taken out on the ridge near the residence of Mr. Stowe, and at other places in the township. This portion of the county is now





well drained, although in early years the comparatively level land at the head-waters of Plum Creek was wet and marshy and almost impassable, as some of the first settlers remember to their sorrow. Mud, in early years, was an important matter to take into consideration on all occasions when journeys were to be undertaken. It was a principal cause of arousing the wrath and invective of the pioneer, and is said to have incited conduct unbecoming Christians. A journey without the incidental sticking in the mud was regarded as an omen of prosperity, and was warmly welcomed, not simply for that reason alone, but because of the discomfort avoided. The western third of the township is also quite level. From the turnpike, near the center, the country eastward and westward is descending and valley-like, with rising ground in the distance. The principal stream is Plum Creek, which rises near the farm of George Bennett and flows a little east of south, leaving the township and uniting with Rocky River a short distance northeast of Medina. Its course is tortuous, and it has many small, winding branches. The western third is drained by small streams which flow west into Rocky River. The northeast corner is threaded by a small stream which flows east and unites with the East Branch of Rocky River.

On the 4th of March, 1815, Solomon and Frederick Demming arrived in the township, erected rude log cabins and began to clear a few acres for a corn and potato patch and a garden. During the summer of the same year, there came in John Hulet, Seymour Chapin, John Stearns, Andrew Demming and Henry Bogue, with their families. These men located in different parts of the township and erected the indispensable log cabin, and endeavored to make themselves comfortable. During the months of October and November, 1815, James Stearns, Solomon Harvey and

Henry Parker came with their families. Soon afterward came Samuel Tillotson, Ephraim Lindley and W. P. Stevens.

In 1817, John Freese, B. W. Freese, Dr. Seth Blood, Jacob Ward, Harvey Stebbins, L. Thayer, Rhoda Stowe, W. Root, P. Clark, Peter, John and A. Berdan and others arrived. This addition soon altered the appearance of the township. Here and there could be seen small round-log cabins standing in clearings of a few acres, while near them could be heard the almost incessant ring of the ax, and the crash of huge trees that had stood the tempests of ages. The sharp report of the rifle rang out through the woods, and the choice turkey or venison, soon afterward eaten by the family, attested the prowess of the hunter. When a new settler appeared, those already established, needed no invitation to assemble immediately, and speedily erect his cabin. Often the cabin, begun in the morning, was occupied by the family the following night. Families were frequently taken in by others, where they remained until their cabin was ready. Log-rollings and chopping bees became common, and it is stated that weeks were often spent in one continual round of rollings. Great sport was enjoyed on these occasions, and the women usually assembled to do the cooking. Enormous pot-pies of wild turkey or venison were served up to the hungry men, and the joke and laugh went round. Whisky was almost universally present, and was the source of frequent bursts of merriment and occasional bursts of passion. Often, some poor fellow, too full for utterance, sought some secluded spot to dream of hunts and Indians and sleep off the blissful effects of King Alcohol. The following is related by an old settler: "Capt. John Stearns had got everything in readiness and had fixed upon a day to raise his new barn, when it was discovered that no whisky could be bought, or even borrowed, in the township, and, more un-



fortunate still, that none could be had nearer than Tallmadge. To go to that village and return would require two days. Mr. Stearns made known the matter to his neighbors, who told him that, under the present circumstances, they thought perhaps the barn might be raised without the liquor, though they could not approve of his neglect to see about the matter earlier. On the day appointed, the settlers assembled, went to work, raised the barn, and made the fortunate discovery that a building could be safely and speedily built without the use of whisky." After that, it was no uncommon occurrence to see buildings going up and not a drop of liquor used.

The young people were not without their sleighing parties and dances, and the vigor and energy there displayed would arouse the admiration of the old men and women present, who, thereupon, related the experience of their youth. The following is related by Ephraim Lindley, who came to the township in 1816: "Several young people of Brunswick concluded to go to the residence of Rufus Ferris, who lived a short distance north of the present county seat, and pay a number of young people there assembled a visit, and have a good time generally. Each young man of us got his female partner, and, rigging jumpers made of long poles that answered for runners and thills, we fastened on a few boards, on which we sat while traveling. Our road was marked by blazed trees. We started from what is now Brunswick Center, and, following the obscure path, we finally reached Weymouth in safety. We then, by a path still harder to follow, journeyed until we reached Rocky River, at the Joseph Northrup farm, and, after crossing the river, continued on through the woods until we reached the cabin of Mr. Ferris, where we were warmly welcomed. We tarried there, engaged in youthful sport, until a late hour, and, finally,

started for home. The entire night was spent in the visit, and, while going and coming, we had no fine buffalo robes to protect us from the severity of the snow-storm that was raging."

The settlers were called upon very early to build bridges, which, very probably, were carried away by the next freshet. "It was no uncommon thing to see all the men in a community congregate early, and, without stockings or shoes, labor all day in water, fixing abutments, and placing the long, heavy stringers thereon. The puncheons used so universally for flooring were considered equally well fitted for use in bridges, and were thus used." Often the women took the ax or the rifle and went into the forest to chop or in quest of game. One day, Maria, the wife of John Hulet, was standing near the little window of her cabin. The snow lay thickly upon the ground, and the air was bitterly cold. She had much out-door work to do that winter, there being two cows and a yoke of oxen left in her care. While looking from the window, she saw a large dog standing in the edge of the clearing, and from his appearance—with tongue hanging out and covered with sweat—she knew he had been chasing some animal. Moving a little, she saw a large buck, covered with foam, standing near the dog. She quietly took the ax and hurried out of the door, calling to the dog to seize it. The buck was instantly thrown upon the snow, where it was knocked on the head by the resolute woman. She tied a rope around its neck, dragged it to the cabin, and had almost finished skinning it, when a tall Indian presented himself and claimed the animal, saying it had been run down by his dog. After some parley, the deer was relinquished, and the Indian, after taking the skin and hind-quarters, departed. Mrs. Hulet was compelled to carry water from a spring at a considerable distance from her





cabin, and, thinking over the matter one day, she concluded to dig a well near the house. She went to work, and, when down where she could not throw the earth out, she took a tin vessel, to which a long rope was attached, and, with this imperfect implement, her children drew up the earth which she placed therein. In this remarkable manner, a depth of thirty feet was reached, when an abundance of good water was found. The next thing was to wall the well, and this must be done without delay, as, otherwise, it would cave in. She entered into a contract with a neighbor, giving him a small iron furnace to draw a load or two of stones. And then she did not know how to place them, but a stranger, happening along, agreed to show her for a meal of victuals. The meal was prepared and eaten, and then the stranger told her how to lay the stones so that they would not fall. After many vexations, the wall was laid, and the well to-day is an excellent one, and is located on the farm of George Hunt. This incident is related to show the trials which the wives of the settlers were compelled to undergo. Where is the woman who, to-day, in the absence of her husband, if a tall Indian presented himself at her house and demanded any article she had, would have the courage to demand her right. The article would be yielded without a word, and the red man would go off laughing in his sleeve (if he had one) at what he would probably call a "heap big scare."

On the 6th of April, 1818, the first township election was held, resulting as follows: John Stearns and Jacob Ward, Justices of the Peace; Darius Francis, Treasurer; John Stearns, Assessor; Henry Parker, Constable; John Hulet, John Stearns and Solomon Demming, Trustees; Samuel Tillotson and W. P. Stevens, Overseers of the Poor; H. Root and H. Bogue, Fence Viewers.

The following list comprised all the legal

voters then in the township: Capt. John Stearns, Solomon Demming, John Hulet, Harvey Stebbins, Rev. Jacob Ward, Thomas Stearns, Maj. Andrew Demming, Joel Curtis, Elijah Hull, Henry Bogue, Ephraim Lindley, James Stearns, George J. Baldwin, Solomon Harvey, Horace Root, Darius Francis, Henry Parker, Daniel Stearns and John Hulet, Jr. In 1819 and 1820, many others arrived, and the township put on the garb of civilization.

A number of years before any settler came to the township, a man in Connecticut, named Williams, purchased the western half, but, failing to meet his payments, he lost the land, which reverted to the State. Some time afterward, this portion of the township was given in exchange for a number of improved farms in Berkshire County, Mass., the owners thereof preferring to come to the Western Reserve, then, and since, a justly celebrated locality. The contract, on the part of the State of Connecticut, was made by its agent. Abraham and John Freese were sent out by the Berkshire County purchasers to survey the land, locate farms, and inform those in the East as to the condition of the country. When all was in readiness, they came West. The eastern half was early owned by Messrs. McCurdy, Kinsman, Sanford and perhaps others, who, after many years, employed Abraham Freese to survey it.

Capt. John Stearns became the owner of 1,300 acres of land located in the western part of the township. He had several sons who had reached maturity, and to each of these he gave a tract of land—about two hundred acres—and urged the necessity of clearing their land and providing themselves with homes. He also donated two acres to be used as a burying-ground, where, to-day, he and many others of the first settlers lie at rest.

The following is a list of old settlers, who died at advanced ages: John Ward, 92; Eliza-





beth Ward, 89; John Stearns, 92; Lucy Stearns, 76; W. P. Stevens, 87; Lydia Stevens, 69; Persis Kingsbury, 65; Samuel Tillotson, 91; Sarah Tillotson, 77; Solomon Demming, 85; Roxanna Demming, 66; John Hulet, 86; Ephraim Fletcher, 74; Jabez Kingsbury, 80; Daniel Bogue, 72. An average of eighty years.

Several of the first settlers are yet living, and their white hairs and venerable appearance tell of the ravages of time.

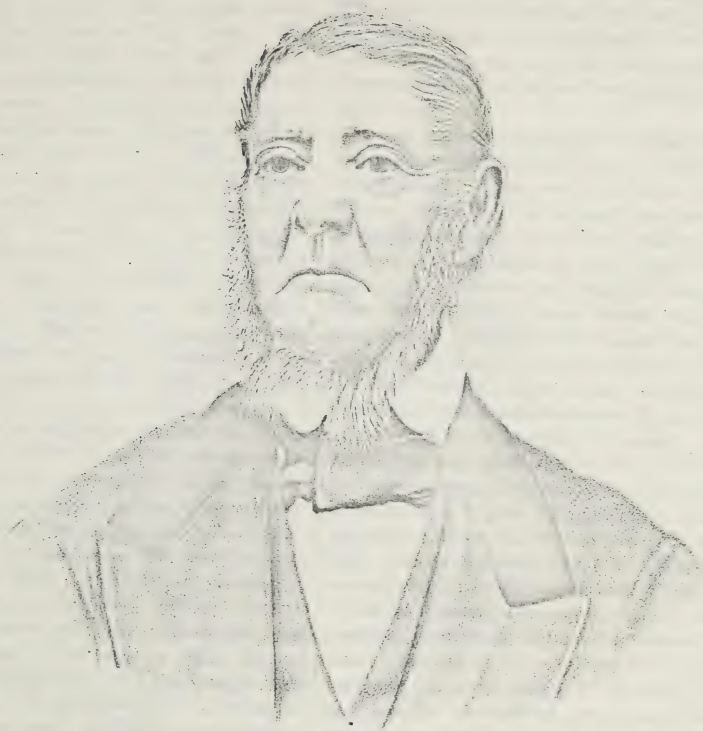
The township was surveyed by Abraham Freese, who laid off the western half into lots of three hundred and twenty acres each. This was done before the war of 1812. The eastern half remained almost wholly unsettled, and was wholly unsurveyed until after 1817. It was then owned by three men, one of whom owned nearly three-fourths, including all the northeast quarter, and a strip something over a mile wide, extending south to the northern line of Medina and adjoining the western half. The remainder was owned by two men, Sanford and Dickey, each of whom possessed a little more than a section. The most of the lots in the eastern half comprise one hundred and sixty acres. In 1825, James Brooks arrived, and bought one hundred and thirty-five acres in the northeast corner, paying \$2.50 per acre. He was the first settler on the northeast quarter, which was owned by the heirs of Mr. Swift, and the only one until about 1822, when Moses and Cornelius Sherman arrived and settled a short distance south. About the same time, Drake, Lanphear, Garret, Talman and Conklin appeared and purchased farms. Several others came on soon afterward, but the settlement was slow, owing in a measure to the price charged for the land. For some reason, forgotten or unknown, the northwest part of the township was not settled until about 1830, although the land had been surveyed nearly

a score of years before, and a large settlement had been formed west of the center. However, in about 1830, there came into the northwest part James Hosford, Nicholas Weatherby, Edward Heath, Enos Doolittle, Moses Goodrich, Ellery Hicks, George Aldridge and others. The most of these men were intelligent and industrious farmers, from the New England States, who came to Ohio to better their material prospects. Many of the houses built at this time were frame, the lumber being obtained at the saw-mills on the river in Liverpool Township. John Hulet was a carpenter, and his services were required on all occasions where superior skill was necessary. He had learned his trade of John Stearns, who worked by what was known as the "scribe rule." The rule was that every timber in a frame building was made for the place it was to occupy, and very likely differed in length from every other in the building. The studding, joists, rafters, etc., were cut for the special place they were to occupy, and necessarily varied in length from others of the same use. It is likely this rule was employed by Solomon Demming when he built the large wooden cart which became the wonder of the township. This cart was constructed wholly of wood, without nails or bolts, and, when in motion, creaked and groaned like a human being in distress. It was large, strong and cumbersome, and was capable of sustaining an enormous weight. Its unearthly sounds could be heard several miles, as the huge "Juggernaut" rolled slowly on its way. It was built as an experiment, and was an eminent success in point of noise and as a curiosity. It served its time, and, when no longer capable of being used, was greatly missed by the neighborhood. Its creation was regarded as an abuse of the "scribe rule."

The settlement of the township was not as rapid as that in Liverpool, although a suffi-



585-586



*E. Lindley*





cient number had arrived prior to 1820 as to make the erection of saw-mills advisable. Accordingly, in about 1824, a man named Entinton, erected one on Plum Creek. The building was a plank shanty, and the saw, which was an up-and-down one, was operated by water-power. A large dam was built across the creek, and in times of freshets stored up an enormous volume of water. This was used sparingly, and by careful management the mill was enabled to operate about five months of the year. It was called a "thunder mill," because it depended upon thunder-storms for supplies of water. The mill was operated by Mr. Entinton about four years, and was then purchased by Bogue & Wyman, who made several alterations and improvements; the dam was enlarged and the motion of the saw increased by a greater depth and pressure of water. At the expiration of some ten years, the mill was sold to Isaac Hulet, who increased its capacity by improvements in the machinery. Mr. Hulet operated it six years, when, the patronage having become reduced, it was permitted to stop, and soon afterward the dam was washed away. This mill was not the first in the township, however. Nathan Clark, a settler of great enterprise, erected one, and began operating it as early as 1820. It was located on Plum Creek, and was about a mile and a half below the Hulet Mill. It was also run by water power, and had a good business. It ceased operation after about four years, and was motionless and deserted until 1838, when Mr. Clark refitted it and rebuilt the dam, which had been washed away. After a few years, Fletcher Hulet bought the mill. It ceased running about 1858. Maurice Squires built a saw-mill in the northern part in about 1840. It was operated some ten years, after which it was removed to the western part, where it was owned and operated by a Mr. Allen. Bennett & Stowe owned a large mill

in the northern part in comparatively late years. It was run by steam, and, inasmuch as it continued in operation day and night, two sets of hands being employed, it was the most extensive mill ever in the township. Large quantities of lumber were turned out by this mill.

One of the best saw-mills ever in Brunswick was built in the northeast part in 1843, by Hiram Brooks. This young man was a fine scholar—was a graduate of one of the Eastern theological colleges, and often preached in cabins and schoolhouses in early years. He had great resolution and superior courage. Soon after his father, James Brooks, came to the township. When Hiram was about fourteen years old, he took his rifle one afternoon and went out hunting. After he had been gone a few hours a severe snow-storm set in, and continued with great intensity all night. The air became very cold, and the boy, who had wandered several miles from home, found that he would have to pass the night in the woods. He found a large hollow log that had been split open on the side, and, after gathering several armfuls of dry wood, built a roaring fire at the opening, using several small limbs over the fire to shield it from the descending snow. He sat in the opening of the log, receiving the genial warmth of the blaze, and complacently viewing the severe storm that was raging without. The members of his family were greatly alarmed when night came and the boy did not return. His mother passed a sleepless night, and early the next morning, the storm having spent itself, the family sallied forth to search for the missing boy, expecting to find him frozen to death. They were overjoyed when they saw him coming, safe and sound, toward them. As was stated, he built a saw-mill, in 1843, on the creek near the northeastern corner of Brunswick. The valley of the creek is some fifteen



feet deep, and at a point where it was very narrow, a strong, substantial dam was built. Above the dam the valley took a circular form, and, when this was covered with water to the depth, in some places, of fifteen feet, a broad pond was formed. This pond afterward became the resort, in the spring of the year, of large numbers of wild ducks and geese. The mill was located on the south bank of the mill-pond, and was a large, two-storied frame structure. When first built, the old-fashioned saw was used, but, when others of superior design came in vogue, it was discarded. Sawing was done, either on shares, or at the rate of from \$2 to \$3.50 per thousand. The entire cost of building the mill and dam was \$1,500. Large quantities of lumber were prepared at this mill. One day, soon after the erection of the mill, Lyman Brooks attempted to cross the mill-pond on the ice, but on the way he was taken with a fit, and, falling into an air-hole, was swept under the ice by the current and drowned. When his body was recovered, he had been dead an hour. His brother Elnathan came very near sharing the same fate. He and another young man went bathing in the pond, and, when out in the water, he was seized with the cramp and immediately sank. He arose to the surface and called to his companion for help, and immediately sank for the second time. When he arose, his friend seized him, telling him at the same time not to clinch, and started for the shore, which, after a hard struggle, was reached in safety. Hiram Brooks operated the mill until his death, which occurred some three years after its erection. His mother became owner at his death, and Spencer Brooks was intrusted with its management; but, at the expiration of five years, Elnathan Brooks became the owner, and, after operating it about four months, it was burned to the ground. Two years later, it was rebuilt by Spencer

Brooks, who made several improvements and additions, and soon afterward sold it to Charles and Henry Warner. This was just before the beginning of the last war. Various parties have owned it since, and much of the time it has remained inoperative. In 1880, it was removed. On the bank of the stream, near the old mill, quite a number of lime boulders were unearthed in an early day and burned, affording a fair sample of lime, which was used in plastering houses.

Willis Peck built and conducted a tannery about two miles north of the Center, beginning in 1838. He sank five vats, and dressed skins of all kinds for about ten years, at which time the apparatus was removed. In early years, Solomon Demming built a large two-storied frame tread-mill, placing therein a small set of "nigger-head" buhrs for grinding grain. The mill was located about a mile west of the Center, and here the settlers came in early times for an inferior article of coarse flour or meal. Chopped feed for horses and other animals was prepared at the mill, which was patronized mostly in this respect. The majority of the early settlers made it a practice to take advantage of dry times and good roads, and go to Middlebury or some other place equally near and noted, with their wheat to mill. If necessity compelled them to go sooner, or in wet and muddy times, they usually went to the mills on Rocky River. As a last resort, they obtained flour at Mr. Demming's mill. The presence of the mill was often a great convenience, as it obviated the necessity of borrowing, or a journey through bottomless roads. Many were satisfied with the flour furnished, and none were altogether averse to eating it. The early settlers were not so particular in regard to their diet as to be wholly unwilling to eat the flour, even though it was dark and coarse. The mill was continued in operation some ten





years, when it was allowed to run down. It was the only grist-mill ever in the township. One day, Mr. Hulet concluded to send his son Wesley off to some distant mill, where a better article of flour could be obtained. The oxen—two yoke—were hitched to the wagon, the grain loaded in, and away the boy started. The mill was at last reached, and, when there, the boy discovered that he had neglected to bring proper food for his cattle. He at length concluded to feed them bran. They ate so much of this dry food that two or three of them died, and the boy was compelled to leave his wagon and go home after other oxen. A large quantity of dry bran was discovered to be not the best food in the world for oxen. It was about this time that John Chadwick and another boy, while returning from near Medina, came very nearly being devoured by wolves. It was training day, and they had been down to see the troops, or rather militia, march. It was late when they started for home, and the condition of the road was such that night overtook them before they had gone half-way. To add to their alarm, the wolves began to howl around them, and the boys hurried on as fast as they could through the tangled forest. The night-wind swept through the branches of the trees, rustling the leaves here and there, and startling the anxious boys with the apprehension of sudden danger. Finally, one of the boys discovered a wolf near him, and soon afterward several more were discovered, and then it became clear that they were followed by the ravenous creatures. The boys were now thoroughly aroused, and ran forward as fast as they could, keeping a close watch around them. Twelve or fifteen of the animals were close on their heels, and it was at last concluded to ascend trees, much as such a course was dreaded. The boys were barely out of reach when a small pack surrounded the trees, and began snarling

with disappointment at having missed the expected repast. The boys began to call for help as loudly as they could, and, after continuing it for some time, saw some one approaching, with a torch of hickory bark. The wolves immediately fell back, and were soon out of sight and sound. The torch-bearer proved to be Ephraim Lindley, who, having heard the calls for help, had come out to ascertain their meaning. The boys were overjoyed to escape a long night of anxiety, perched in the trees, with the unpleasant prospect of death so near them. They were soon at home. Children were often lost in the woods, and sometimes days elapsed before they were found. Information of children lost was sufficient to arouse the entire neighborhood to immediate action, as otherwise the lost ones might be devoured by wolves. Elvira Thayer and Maria Lane were thus lost, and, after wandering all night in the woods, came accidentally and suddenly upon the cabin of a neighbor, where they were cared for. Older persons were often completely bewildered; and even those who had passed a lifetime in the woods sometimes found it extremely difficult to keep their bearings. The sensations on such occasions are described as maddening. The senses, through which a knowledge of things external to one's self is derived, refuse to guide aright, and the mind becomes distressed with doubts as to which course to pursue; and, wild with bewilderment, when every effort results in failure, lost people have been known to pass within a few rods of their own home, and refuse to recognize a single familiar object.

A man named Woodbridge erected a distillery a mile or two north of the Center, in about 1828. The building was a low frame structure, in which was placed a small copper still, having a capacity of about twelve gal-





lons. The settlers evidently regarded the liquor manufactured as too precious an article to ship—at least it was drank as fast as made. An excellent article of rye whisky was manufactured. William Clark had an interest in the distillery. The grain was ground in a trough in which a stone revolved, the power being furnished by horses attached to a sweep. The trough was not a success, and was soon displaced. After continuing in operation for a few years, the enterprise was abandoned. It was the only distillery, so far as now remembered, ever in the township. Horse-thieves carried on their nefarious practice in early years. John Stowe missed one of his best horses one morning, and, for some time, could discover no trace of the missing animal. At last, an animal answering to the description was found to have passed through Cleveland, stopping there overnight at a feed stable. From there, the animal was traced to Tecumseh, Mich., where it was found in a livery stable. It proved to be the horse sought, and the thief was found and arrested by the Constable of Brunswick, whom Mr. Stowe had taken with him. The thief proved to be one of Mr. Stowe's nearest neighbors, and, when taken into custody, boldly acknowledged taking the animal, saying that, instead of intending to steal it, he had merely borrowed the animal for a few weeks, as he was obliged to go to Michigan and had no money nor horse of his own, and that, when he returned, he intended to restore the borrowed animal as secretly as he had taken it. The story was doubted, and arrangements were made to take the thief to Medina County. But he effected his escape, and it was thought best not to pursue him, as his story had many plausible features.

An occurrence took place in early years, at Brunswick Center, which kindled the indignation of the neighborhood at the time, and has

been regarded with chagrin ever since. The occurrence, as related, is this: A German, who had just arrived from the old country, stopped for a short time at the Center to make some inquiries about the land that he had seen advertised for sale. While there, he stole an ax at one of the stores, and, after he had been gone a short time, the theft was discovered, whereupon he was pursued by the Constable, who arrested him and took him back to the Center. He was taken before a Justice of the Peace, and, soon after his trial for the theft began, the owner of the ax, and several others, took the case in charge and informed the man that he might take his choice of two punishments—either receive thirty lashes on his bare back and leave the township, or be imprisoned several months with but little to eat. The poor man, seeing there was no help for himself, chose the former punishment, whereupon the lashes were inflicted, ten at a time, with great severity. It is said that the poor man fainted at the conclusion of this unheard-of punishment. He immediately left the township, and what became of him is unknown. The Justice before whom the man was to be tried could do nothing with the men who took the law in their own hands. He left the room when his authority was disregarded. Nothing was ever done with the men who had openly defied the law, to the great regret of the better class of the people. The neighborhood looked upon the affair as an outrage, and this view is taken to-day by all who are familiar with the circumstances.

It is not certainly known who built the first house in the village of Brunswick Center. It is likely, however, that the first was built in 1819 by Thomas Stearns. The building was a round-log structure, and a short time after its erection a few hundred dollars' worth of goods were placed in one apartment. This, so far as now remembered, was the first stock



of goods offered for sale in the township. A short time after the store was opened, Col. John Stearns built the second residence, and soon afterward it was thrown open for the reception of the public. The presence of a tavern at that point was demanded by the large travel on the Cleveland and Columbus Turnpike. An unceasing stream of travel from the central part of the State to Cleveland by way of this turnpike, brought many strangers to the little tavern, and the proprietor soon realized a handsome revenue. Mr. Stearns was also induced to open his store by reason of the calls made for various articles by travelers. However, Archibald Miles opened the first store of any note in the village. In about 1824, he placed in a store-room, built for the purpose, some \$1,500 worth of a general assortment of goods. He began with a flattering patronage, largely afforded by travelers, and continued at the occupation for about eight years, when his goods were removed. Not far from the year 1830, Horace Root opened a small store, nearly a mile north of the Center, on the turnpike. He continued the business for a number of years, and finally closed out his stock. Nathan Clark opened a sort of cabinet-shop in the village at an early day. He manufactured coffins and various other useful articles. He had a small shop where his wares were kept for sale. A few years later, a man whose name has been forgotten, erected a small building, and began the useful occupation of manufacturing Windsor and other chairs. He did a moderate business for several years. No man did more to build up the village than Dr. John Clark. He was a well-educated man and a good physician, receiving the confidence and patronage of the citizens. When he first came to the township, he was not familiar with the general practice of medicine, having made the important subject of cancers a specialty.

But the people in the backwoods were not afflicted with the last-named disorder, and the Doctor soon discovered that he must alter his course of studies. He mastered, so far as possible, the general practice of medicine, and soon had all he could do. He acquired a wide reputation for his skill and success in curing the dreaded "Cuyahoga fever," and adopted methods peculiar to himself and unknown to his brethren. At an early day, he built a large storeroom, and placed therein about \$4,000 worth of goods, the largest and best stock in the township in early years. He also erected several other buildings, one of which was used as a farm and household implement factory; snaths, ax and hammer handles, cradles, etc., were manufactured, and several assistants were employed to conduct the business, while Mr. Clark devoted much of his time to his store. He manufactured Windsor chairs, tables, stands, cupboards, etc. One of the buildings was used as a foundry, where various useful articles were manufactured. Many workmen were employed to carry on his extensive business. While engaged in these pursuits, he had a large medical practice, which called him from the village a large share of the time. He also conducted an ashery in connection with his store, and made considerable potash, which was mostly conveyed to Cleveland, where it was sold. All these pursuits gave Brunswick Center a stirring business aspect. He continued many years, making a small fortune, and finally retired from business. In about 1845, Horace Root built a large store on the east side, in which was placed a large, fine stock of goods. Mr. Root did an excellent business for many years. Abner Martin also kept a small store for a number of years, about the same time. About fifteen years ago, Horace Root died, whereupon James Root occupied the same building for a few years. Various others have kept goods





for sale in the village, among whom are Pomeroy & Hicks and Hicks & Root. There are several stores at present, and most of them have a fair trade. The Sons of Temperance organized a lodge in the village in about 1854, but after a few years the charter was returned to the Grand Lodge, and the members disbanded. In 1820, the settlers came to the conclusion, that having to go to distant points for their mail was a thing no longer to be endured. A petition was circulated and signed by all, for the location of a post office in the township. The prayer of the petitioners was granted; Dr. Seth Blood was appointed first Postmaster, and the office was located at his residence. He served a short time, when John Freese became his successor. Dr. Seth Blood was the first practicing physician in the township. He was a skillful practitioner, and soon obtained an extensive trade. He was called into the northern counties of the State to prescribe for those afflicted with the "Cuyahoga fever," and for many years enjoyed an envied reputation. He was finally taken with the same fever he had driven from so many, and after a short illness died. Among the early physicians were Ezra Summers, Elijah Summers and B. B. Clark. The little village has seen lively business times in past years. Moses Bennett opened a store in the Center in comparatively late years. He began business with about \$1,000 worth of goods, but afterward increased the stock until it invoiced at more than \$4,000. He conducted an ashery at the same time, and is said to have made as high as twelve tons of potash per annum. Others have engaged in mercantile and manufacturing pursuits in past years in the Center.

Schools were organized at an early day. The first school was taught on the west line of the township, in 1817, in a small log building that had been intended for a dwelling, but into

which no family had yet moved. The first teacher was Sarah Tillotson. Mention of this school is made in the chapter on the history of Liverpool Township. The school was taught on the line, to accommodate families in both townships. The first schoolhouse was built during the fall of 1817, and located a quarter of a mile west of the Center. Col. John Freese was employed to teach the first school in this house, which he did to the satisfaction of the patrons. After that, school was held regularly there until 1824, when a large hewed-log building, intended for a church, schoolhouse and town hall, combined, was erected at the Center. Abram Freese taught several terms in the first schoolhouse. Often, in accordance with the terms of the contract between the teacher and the School Directors, the children were called upon to build the fires, and not infrequently the large boys were required to chop the wood while at school. Barring the teacher out, was a practice not to be avoided on holidays, and such occasions were relished with unbounded delight by the entire school; but they were not always agreeable to the unfortunate pedagogue. Miss Parmelia Freese also taught in the first schoolhouse, and found so much difficulty in managing her large scholars that her father, Judge Abram Freese, often visited the school to impart his advice to the scholars and render any needed assistance to the teacher. The large attendance at the early schools spoke well for the interest in education. The old combined church and schoolhouse was used for school purposes twelve or fifteen years, when a larger and better frame building was erected to take its place. The old house was used by Archibald Miles for a storeroom. This building is yet standing and is used for a stable. Its age and former dignified use are not respected by the present generation; it makes a good stable, however. The present school-



house was built about 1855. The building has two stories, the upper one being used for a town hall. The lower is divided into two apartments, and two teachers are employed during the winter months. In about 1830, two schoolhouses were erected, one a mile and a half north, and the other a mile and a half south, of the village. At that time, the township comprised three or four school districts, but the precise date of their creation is unknown. Both houses were built of logs, with clapboard shingles and furniture, with broad fire-places, and with large stone chimneys on the outside of the building. After being used for some ten years, they were replaced by others, since which time two others have been built at each place. A short time after the erection of the northern house, another was built near the residence of Mr. Goodman. This house was constructed of logs, and was afterward replaced by several others, each being an improvement on the former, and more in harmony with the times. An incident in the school at the Center is related by James Stearns, and should be carefully read by all bad and mischievous boys. The teacher's name was Barnes, and James' conduct had been reprehensible, and he no doubt needed a "trouncing." Accordingly, the teacher, with a frown on his face, called up the wayward boy, and, having tied a strong handkerchief around his neck, suspended him over the door. The boy began to gasp for breath, whereupon the larger scholars (having become alarmed lest the boy should strangle outright) interfered, and he was taken down, a wiser boy. Good order reigned in the school after that event, but the teacher was given to understand that a different mode of correction must be pursued or he would be discharged. This incident should be a warning to all bad and troublesome scholars. A school was taught in 1832, by Newell Cole, in a dwelling near the

residence of Moses Sherman. Shortly afterward, a round-log schoolhouse was built, which, after being used some five years, was replaced by a better one. The present house was erected in 1877. The school district in the northeast corner comprises portions of Brunswick and Hineckley Townships and Cuyahoga County. The first schoolhouse was a log structure, erected in 1828, and located at the township corner-stone. Hiram Brooks was the first teacher, receiving \$13 per month for his services, and boarding at home. Miss Sarah Bennett taught during the following summer, and received her pay by subscription, each scholar paying 75 cents for the term of three months. In 1833, another log school building was erected back in Brunswick, some distance from the line, and, after being used some six years, it was replaced by a small frame structure. This was used about eighteen years, when the present one was erected at a cost of about \$600.

Many of the early settlers had been members of various churches before coming to the township, and, still wishing to continue the worship of God, they immediately began holding meetings at private cabins and afterward at schoolhouses. Rev. Jacob Ward, a Methodist minister of considerable influence and power, organized a society in 1817, and the meetings were held in the old log schoolhouse. About the same time, the Episcopalian society was organized in Liverpool, and, inasmuch as both congregations were small, they adopted the practice of assembling alternately in Brunswick and Liverpool to worship God together. When held in the latter township, the meetings were conducted by Justus Warner, and, when in the former, by Rev. Jacob Ward. The first structure that could be called a church was the old block building, erected and used for a variety of purposes. Here the church people met to worship. In about 1826,





the Methodists built a small church west of the Center. This building was used until 1872, when the present large brick church was erected at a cost of about \$8,000. The old church is now owned and used by a small society of Disciples. A Congregational society was instituted in the township in February, 1819, by Revs. Simeon Woodruff and William Hanford, two missionaries then laboring in the Western Reserve to advance the interests of their church. The Congregationalists also met in the old schoolhouse and private residences at first, and grew in strength and grace. Their present church at the Center is the finest religious structure in the county, and is said to have cost nearly \$25,000. It is constructed of brick, and is a credit to the religious zeal of the citizens of Brunswick. A society of Free-Will Baptists was organized in the northeast corner as early as 1828. The first church was erected in Cuyahoga County about 1830, and, after continuing

in use for many years, was replaced by the present building, located in Hinkley Township. Hiram Brooks, a member of this church, often preached for the society, and on all occasions took an active interest in its welfare and prosperity. A little village sprang up at the corners in early years, and was named "Bennett's Corners," in honor of a prominent man who settled at the place and did much to improve the country. A short distance south of the residence of Mr. Sherman is a small church that was erected a few years ago by the members of several denominations, and, according to the arrangement, church exercises are held at stated times by each. The church is known as a United Brethren Church, perhaps for the reason that more of that denomination than any other belong. Near the church lives an old man named Hiram B. Miller, who became widely known before the last war by his taking an active part in assisting runaway slaves to Canada.

## CHAPTER XIX.\*

WESTFIELD TOWNSHIP--SAVAGE AND CIVILIZED LIFE ON CAMPBELL'S CREEK--TWO FAMOUS TRIALS--OHIO FARMERS' INSURANCE COMPANY, ITS ORIGIN AND GROWTH.

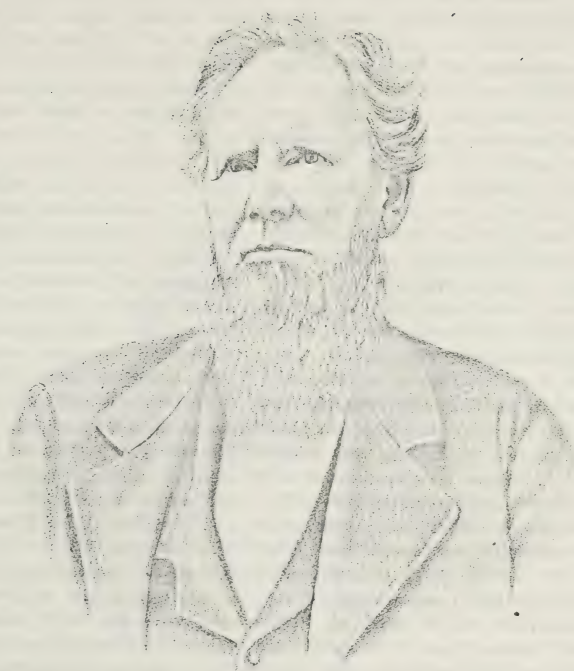
THE township of Westfield, the history of which is narrated here, retains but slight resemblance to the populous community in the Old Bay State, the name of which it bears. Nevertheless, though differing widely from its namesake, it remains, and ever will remain, a worthy testimonial of the affection for the Massachusetts home of him who once owned the greater portion of its wide-reaching forests and its fertile fields. To-day, the township is the same in shape and size as when George Collier, of honored memory, first surveyed it and marked out its metes and bounds. It is

one of a long tier of townships that lie just within the limits, and form the southern boundary line of that historic tract--the Western Reserve of Ohio--and its people partake of all those sturdy, sterling qualities and characteristics for which the inhabitants of the Reserve have been ever noted since it was set apart and settled by the whites. Westfield contains twenty-five square miles of tempting territory. Its four equal sides being each five miles long, and so surveyed as to form the figure of a perfect square. To the north of it lies La Fayette; Guilford skirts its eastern border; Harrisville adjoins it on the west, while its southern

\*Contributed by R. J. Young.







*Oliver Morton*



boundary separates it from one of Medina's immediate neighbors among counties—Wayne.

The present inhabitants of Westfield are almost wholly devoted to the peaceful pursuits of agriculture, and few tracts of land in Ohio are better suited to this purpose than the one which these thrifty farmers till. The configuration of the land, and the character of the soil, unite to form a prospect and possession, of which it may with truth be said, that the one is as pleasing to the eye, as the other is pregnant with the choicest products of the ground. The northern half of the township is pretty level, the gentle undulations of the land being just sufficiently pronounced to relieve the expanse from the semblance of monotony. In the southern half, however, the irregularities of the surface are more strongly marked, some parts being slightly hilly; but nowhere enough so to prevent successful cultivation. Portions of the land, particularly in the northern section, contain a considerable quantity of clay soil; elsewhere, the ground is gravelly and sandy. There is a fine growth of timber still standing in the township, including oak, hickory, black walnut, beech and ash trees. The quality of oak grown here is excellent. The leading crops are wheat, oats and corn, with fair proportions of rye and barley. Those best acquainted with the land say it excels as a wheat-producing tract. The territory of Westfield is well watered, and everywhere throughout its confines the drainage is noticeably good. That placid and picturesque sheet of water, Chippewa Lake, lies partly within the township, and the stream which forms its southern outlet, runs for a little distance through the northeast quarter of the land herein described. A prettily winding stream, called Campbell's Creek, begins its course in the northwestern corner of the township, flows south and east for a few miles, then curves in a southwesterly direction, and finally finds an outlet in Killbuck River, just across the county line.

When this century began, the banks of Campbell Creek were the chosen abode of a large band of Indians belonging to the Wolf tribe, who, having the shores of the stream and the immediate vicinity as the center of their operations, roamed betimes over the surrounding country, threading the dense and otherwise trackless forest with their mysterious trails. A favorite trip with them was a jaunt to Chippewa Lake, and it was usually one in which business and pleasure were combined; "business" and "pleasure" of a different sort, it must be granted, but, nevertheless, as intimately joined as ever happens in the case of modern travelers who now journey by rail from this same locality to the remotest cities on the seaboard. And who dare say, that, in their hunting and trapping expeditions, these nomadic natives felt less anxiety and care than does the man of business now, who extends his trade to distant towns, or that, in their hours of sport and recreation, the wild and wanton fellows found less enjoyment than do our civilized seekers after pleasure at watering-places and other so-called popular resorts?

This meandering stream, around which so many historic recollections cluster, was the dividing line between the possessions of Henry Thorndyke and James Fowler, who were the first individual owners of the land that now lies within the limits of the township. Henry Thorndyke, of Portage County, Ohio, owned to the west of the creek, about one-third of the present township area being included in his tract. James Fowler, of Westfield, Mass., owned the remaining two-thirds, lying east of the creek. Such was the condition of affair up to the year 1817, when the first settlers came in and made their purchases. Let it be remembered, and recorded now, that James Fowler was the man whose prominence as landed proprietor, coupled with his residence in the eastern Westfield, gave name to the new township then forming in the forest.





To collate and give in detail the real facts connected with the first settlement and incipient growth of Westfield, is a task beset with doubts and difficulties. No trustworthy record of the earliest times has heretofore been printed. The historian of to day is, therefore, dependant for his information on the personal recollections of the older settlers or the traditions transmitted to their children. The present population of the township is largely composed of those who have come in during comparatively recent years, the number of families whose founders shared in the "first beginnings of things" here, being surprisingly small. Not one of the first band of immigrants—the settlers of 1817—is numbered among the people of the township now. Indeed, so long ago as 1868, as it is stated in a sketch prepared by Mr. L. D. Ellis, all of those pioneer pilgrims had passed over to the silent majority, save three. The three then surviving were Hanmer Palmer, aged eighty-nine, living with his son, Sherwood H. Palmer, in the adjoining township of Harrisville; Joseph S. Winston, aged eighty-eight, living with his children in Peru, La Salle Co., Ill.; and Mrs. Mary Nye, aged eighty-one, living with a daughter in Wyoming, Jones Co., Iowa. Modern civilization made its first encroachments upon the domain of the aborigines in the neighborhood of Campbell's Creek, in the year 1816, when James Chapman and Warren Brainard entered to view the land, in order to inform themselves, and many waiting friends "down East" as well, about its adaptability to settlement and occupation by the whites. These two men encamped for a night on the spot where, one-half century afterward, stood the residence of D. L. Hart. In the early morning hours of the ensuing day, while Brainard busied himself in the unromantic but necessary work of getting their modest breakfast, Chapman made the forest ring with the rapid blows of his ax, as he felled the first tree ever cut down by Caucasian hands on the territory of

the future township. The resounding blows of Chapman's ax were but the bold and peremptory knockings of a new civilization, impatient and eager for admission. A short season of inspection confirmed these two men in their belief that the land they viewed, particularly that portion of it west of Campbell's Creek, was indeed a goodly heritage, and, when they turned their faces to the East again, it was with the purpose of recommending the region to all whom they should find seeking a place for settlement. On their return, they passed through Portage County, where a happy chance threw them into the company of Eber Mallory and Hanmer Palmer, the pair of pioneers for whom fortune had reserved the honor of being the first actual settlers and permanent residents in the territory that soon afterward formed Westfield.

The finger of a kindly destiny guided Palmer and Mallory to their future homes, pointing out to them a new pathway and an abiding-place quite different from their predetermined destination. They had entered Ohio with the desire and purpose of settling near the center of the State. On their way through Portage County, they were persuaded to pause in their journey for a day or two. It was this delay that brought them face to face with Warren Brainard and James Chapman, whose account of the country around Campbell's Creek changed all their previous plans. After conferring together, Messrs. Chapman, Brainard, Mallory, Palmer and Wells, with Mr. Henry Thorndyke, who owned the soil, but never yet had seen it, all went in company to the creek's west bank, and then and there selected their several lots of land. It is said that Brainard was the first to close a bargain. Having made choice of their particular possessions, the members of this interesting party with one accord went home. In the following spring, the first actual occupancy and settlement of the land was made. It was on the 2d day of April, 1817, that Hanmer Palmer and Eber Mallory, returning with their families,



reached their respective plats of ground and became the pioneer inhabitants. At subsequent dates in this same year of 1817, the following persons came to dwell in the new land: Dr. Richard Morton, John J. Morton and wife, Benjamin P. Morton and wife, Timothy Nye and wife, Richard Marshall and wife, Joseph S. Winston and wife and Isaac Ford. Mr. Winston bought the land on which now stands the town of Friendsville, and from him the original settlement at that point was called Winston's Corners. The following persons joined the young colony in the year 1818: Warren Brainard and wife, James Chapman and wife, George Collier and wife, A. Chapman and wife, N. Brainard and wife, James Ross and wife, J. M. Eastman and wife, Isaac Snell and wife, Andrew Lewis and wife, Elihu Hathaway and wife, Wiley Hamilton and wife, Moses Noble and wife and Horace Noble. In the year 1819, these were the additions to the scant population: Selah Beach and wife, Alvah Beach and wife, Sanford Beach and wife, Rufus Vaughn and wife, Joseph Kidder and wife, Joseph Kidder, Jr., and wife, Benjamin Kidder, Francis Kidder, James Kidder and wife, Alvin Cook and wife, Thomas Cook and wife, B. Flannigan, Benjamin Farnum, Shubal Gridley and wife, Thomas Hayes, Daniel Refner, Benjamin Johnson and wife, Amasa Gear and wife, Jonathan Pitcher and wife, Peter Crush and wife, Isaiah Briggs and Benjamin Briggs. Mr. Joseph Kidder is credited with making the first purchase in the Fowler tract, on the east side of Campbell's Creek, his land lying about a half-mile south of the center of the present township. The year 1820 brought new emigrants, as follows: Calvin Phillips and wife, Jonathan Simmons and wife, Isaiah Simmons, Constant Cornell and wife, Deliverance Eastman and wife, John Ross and wife, Miles Norton and wife, John Hosford and wife, Abner Ray and wife, Timothy R. Latimer and Isaac Tyler.

After the year 1820, the accessions to the

population of Westfield grew in frequency and extent, bands of several families often coming in together. It was not long ere the settlements extended into all parts of the township, and the work of clearing and tilling the land, building habitations and opening highways, went on throughout the entire territory. The gradual increase in numbers above noted was, of course, wholly from immigration. But within the same period of time there were other accessions of a different and even more interesting sort. In the year 1817, very soon after their arrival in their forest home, there was born to John J. Morton and Jane Morton a daughter, whom they named Fanny. When this first white native of the township grew up to womanhood, she married Mr. Hiram Kellogg, whom she survived, and after whose death she removed to the home of her children in Michigan. The first white male child was born in the month of April, 1818. He was the son of Eber Mallory and Jemima Mallory, and was named by his parents Henry Thorndyke, in honor of the landed proprietor. Mr. Thorndyke repaid the compliment by giving to his young namesake a present of a piece of land on the west bank of Campbell's Creek, in what afterward became Lot No. 15. Henry Thorndyke Mallory grew to man's estate and married a fair maiden of the township. He afterward removed to Illinois, where he died about the year 1867. Mr. Oliver Morton, brother of Fanny Morton, above mentioned, who is now one of the most prominent and influential citizens of Westfield, barely escaped the distinction of being among the first births in the township. As a matter of fact, he was ushered into this world at Pittsburgh, Penn., where his parents had gone for a brief visit, in the year 1819; but his subsequent life spent in Westfield entitles him to all the honor that attaches to a native of the place. The earliest notable society event, as reporters nowadays would say, was the wedding of Mr. B. Flannigan and Miss Polly Cook, which occurred in





the year 1819, and in the "leafy month of June." "To those then living here," says a Westfield man, "this marriage was an event of no small magnitude. Instead of being made the occasion of a 'belling,' as has been the practice in some communities, it was a season of feasting and congratulations. Nor was costly apparel an indispensable accessory on such occasions. A good calico dress for the bride, and a suit of fulled cloth for the groom were considered eminently suitable ingredients of tip-top outfits for the wedding costumes."

The township of Westfield was organized in the year 1820. The first list of officers elected included Rufus Vaughn, Justice of the Peace; Hanmer Palmer, Wiley Hamilton and Ansel Brainard, Jr., Trustees; George Collier, Clerk; James Ross, Constable. The territory, whose affairs these officers administered, and whose peace and prosperity were their chief objects of concern, was thus divided and laid out in lots by the original survey. On each side of a due east-and-west road, passing through the center of the township, lots were laid out one mile in length by one-half mile in width. Furthermore, upon the opposite sides of two other east-and-west roads equidistant from one parallel with the center road, tiers of lots were laid out, each lot being three-quarters of a mile long by half a mile wide. By this division, sixty lots were formed, having a uniform frontage on the highways—six rows of lots in all, ten lots in each row. The total area of the lots, it will be seen, just equals the twenty-five square miles within the township limits. The first and second elections for local officers were held at Hanmer Palmer's house. Then, for a period of six years, other private houses or buildings used for school purposes did duty as polling-places, until, in 1828, a town house was built at the township center, and dedicated to all proper public uses. In the years that intervened between the first settlement and the date last given, when the business and political interests commenced

to crystallize around the geographical center, the good people of Westfield passed through many trials and privations. During all this time, the majority of the settlers who came in were poor. Some men simply owned an ax, while others rejoiced in the possession of only two or three farm or household utensils. The land sold for about \$3 per acre, and, in many cases, the purchasers were unable to pay for the property for years after they assumed possession. Those who first arrived found county roads that ran from Wooster to Medina, and from Lodi to Seville. Aside from these, there were few facilities for intercourse with the outer world, or even between the settlers themselves, who were scattered here and there in the depths of the forest. On account of their isolation, the different families, in the matter of providing the necessities of life, put to a practical test the doctrine of the sufficiency of man unto himself. In every household, domestic economy was practiced in its severest form. Money was a curiosity; there was not enough in the township to warrant its use as a medium of exchange. Edibles and commodities were to be had in the towns, in trade for grain, which the farmer had raised in such parts of his woods as he had cleared, having girdled the large trees and cut out the small ones and the underbrush. The labors of the men were not a whit more severe or multifarious than were the different forms of work undertaken by the women. In those days, every wife deserved, and wore with pride, the title of "help-meet" to her husband. Added to the ordinary labors incident to housekeeping, which she performed as a matter of course, she made the clothing for the members of her family, males as well as females. The manufacture of woolen and linen fabrics, and making them up into dresses, shirts, coats and pantaloons, were duties which received strict attention each succeeding year, and as regularly and surely as old clothes wore out. Boots and shoes were luxuries. Even the young men and maidens of





seventeen and eighteen went barefooted to church and school, setting an example which all the children perforce followed. It is safe to say that the young gentlemen and ladies of to-day, who have reached the interesting age of seventeen, would rather remain away from church and school than attend without shoes and stockings on their feet, even in mid-summer! Well, this is not the only indication that education and religion were more highly prized by the youth of 1818-28, than they now are by the youth of 1880. Nor was fine raiment then considered as essential to a presentable appearance at social gatherings as it is to-day. When the daughter of a pioneer purposed to attend a merrymaking or a dance, she took to the store a quantity of linen made by her own fair hands, and exchanged it for calico, from which she cut her dress for the occasion. In such a costume, she was ready to contest her title to the belle-ship of the ball.

During these days, the young community did not lack the benign influence of schools and churches. So early as 1818, a few of the settlers, belonging to the Free-Will Baptist sect, organized a society and held meetings for prayer and praise; but, as they could not secure and support regular preaching, the gatherings were abandoned after a short time. The first Methodist Church was formed in 1819, its leading spirit being Ansel Brainard, Jr. Soon thereafter, the Baptists and Presbyterians began to hold services. The first school was opened in the summer of 1818, the teacher being Miss Jerusha Hosmer. Its daily sessions were held in the house of John J. Morton, who lived about fifty rods east of the present site of Friendsville, the place known in olden times by the name of Winston's and Morse's Corners. The boys and girls who attended this first school as pupils were Alfred, Theron and Melissa Hamilton; Lewis and Alonzo Nye; Clarissa and Charles Mallory; Charlotte, Jane and Sherwood Pahner; Eliza, Lucy and Lorenzo

Brainard, and Betsey Stark. The same scholars, with possibly a few additions, were taught in the winter of 1818-19, by Ansel Brainard, Jr., the building used as schoolhouse standing about eighty rods north of Morse's Corners. At the same place, the roster of students being but slightly changed, Miss Betsey Ross conducted the third school in the summer of 1819. Subsequent to the organization of the township, both winter and summer schools were held regularly, in divers log cabins and in rooms of dwelling-houses, the seat of instruction shifting about after the manner of the voting-place, until the town hall was built, in 1828.

Up from the decade that succeeded the settlement of Westfield, and even from the score of years that followed after, there rises a cloud of reminiscences and personal adventures, the narration of which, in detail, would doubtless amuse and interest the reader; but the lapse of time has made it difficult to distinguish facts from fancies in many cases, so that he who writes a sober history is restricted to such incidents as are well authenticated. For one thing, it is on record, that, in the year 1819, Independence Day was observed by the inhabitants with patriotic fervor. The celebration was not marked by any elaborate parade or dazzling exhibition of fantastic fireworks, as has become the fashion for Fourth of July festivities of recent years. But the people, proud of their country and rejoicing in their liberties, assembled at the house of James Chapman, and felicitated one another over various State and national affairs. Finally, to vent their jovial feelings, they indulged in dancing. The music was furnished by Richard Marshal, an expert with the fiddle and the bow, but whose execution on this occasion was somewhat faulty by reason of too liberal potations. Mr. George Collier, who possessed a critic's ear, ventured to suggest certain modifications of the melodies, and, in this connection, said: "Richard, why don't you come down heavier on the



bass?" Whereupon, Mr. Marshall convulsed the company by responding, "I can't do it, Collier; and danged if you can, either, unless you do it with an ax!"

That noted citizen, Mr. Hammer Palmer, passed through one experience in the first year of his residence, which he never cared to have repeated. It was in the afternoon of an October day, in the year 1817, that he set out for a friendly call at the cabin of Isaac Ford, in the southern part of the township. The "blazes" on the trees, along lot lines, served to direct him on his lonely journey as long as there was light by which to read them. But darkness overtook him before he reached his destination, and he lost his way. Believing himself to be near Ford's habitation, he called out lustily for help. Ford heard him, but, mistaking his pleadings for a panther's cries, shut himself up in his cabin and took measures for defense! Unhappy Palmer passed a dreary night in the forest, surrounded by a circle of blazing fires, which he made haste to build, and kept awake by dread of Indians and wolves. At earliest dawn, he hastened to more hospitable quarters. The mother of Mr. J. A. Latimer, while at home one night, with her infant son as her sole companion, received a terrifying shock from Indians, who came peering in at windows and making hideous noises and scowling darkly. Having got into the house, the copper-colored squaws, as they all proved to be, ate an alarmingly heavy meal, after which they withdrew, with demonstrations similar to those that marked their coming.

Among the adventures of these perilous times, there is one more that merits mention. A bear hunt is referred to, which was participated in by Amasa Gear, Joseph Kidder, Benjamin Kidder, Miles Norton, E. M. Norton, and other men, besides a whole brigade of dogs. The bear, when found, showed fight, and returned the attack of the canines with such vigor and ferocity as to somewhat astonish the

assaulting party. At a critical moment, Mr. Gear essayed to shoot bruin, but was deterred by Reuben Gridley, who feared the shot, instead of killing the bear, might take effect in the body of one of the precious dogs. In those days, a good dog was a treasure, and settlers were particularly careful not to kill any of the tribe. Suddenly, the bear beat a retreat toward the creek, all the dogs following close upon its heels, and made good its escape. Not a shot had been fired, and the only issue of the hunt was a small detachment of maimed and wounded curs.

Pleased at the rapidity with which his lands were filling up, Mr. James Fowler determined, in 1826, to found a village at the township center. He therefore selected that most eligible and commanding site on which Le Roy is built, the location being almost within a stone's throw of the exact geographical center of Westfield. At this point, he first set apart four acres for a public square, and then laid off fourteen acres on each side of the square, designing to cut them up into lots with sixty feet frontage. Two years later came the building of the town house, on the north side of the public square. To the erection of this famous old frame structure, Mr. Fowler made a cash contribution of \$100, his desire coinciding fully with the wish of the citizens, namely, that the edifice should be devoted to all praiseworthy uses in which the public felt an interest. It was to be used for elections, week-day schools, Sunday schools, church services, political meetings and all public gatherings not otherwise provided for. Aside from the Fowler gift, the subscriptions to the building "fund" were nearly all in the form of personal labor, pork and produce. This structure stood where it was built, and was used for the various purposes enumerated, until 1846, when it was replaced by the neat and more commodious wooden edifice which thereafter and up to the present time has been used as a town-hall





simply. At the time this new town hall was built, Westfield had already reached a high stage of its development. Indeed, almost from the date of the formation of the township, a promising industrial growth began. In 1826 or 1827, at or soon after the laying-out of the public square, two saw-mills were put in operation on Campbell's Creek, one by the Kidders, three-quarters of a mile southwest of the Center, and another by William Wolcott, one-half mile west of the Center. Ten years later, two tanneries were started; the first by Thomas Hunt, a short distance south of the Center, and a second by Joseph Reynolds, in the southwestern corner of the township. The Government was not long neglectful of the convenience of the inhabitants, for, in 1827, a post office was established at Winston's Corners, the first postmaster being Joseph Winston. This office was removed to the Center in 1836, and ever after that the community around the public square was known by the name Le Roy, by which name the post office had been previously christened. At the Center, D. B. Austin was the first Postmaster. In 1868, the western settlement had its former loss made good to it, and became independent of Le Roy in the matter of a daily mail by the establishment of Friendsville Post Office, and thus the town secured its modern name. The mail route through the township originally ran from Seville to Lodi, but now it has Seville and Friendsville as its termini. Shortly after entering the "postal service," Joseph Winston prepared himself to entertain transient guests, and opened the primitive tavern at his "corners." He also started there the first store in the township, Mr. Wilen being his partner in the latter venture. Thanks to Winston's enterprise, there were stirring times at the Corners in the thirties. The most venerable structure in Le Roy is the old store on the east side of the square, which was built and first owned by Asa Farnum. Messrs. King & Greene came

down from Medina in the year 1832 and started a store on Farnum's corner. The post office and hotel building, on the west side of the square, was built by James Whiteside just in season for its official occupancy by the postal service in 1836. Two years after its erection, the house was occupied and kept by Dr. Caleb Stock as a public tavern. Naturally enough, the removal of the only post office in the township to this Whiteside corner on the square had invested the place with a peculiar interest and importance in the eyes of all the citizens, inasmuch as all went there for their mail. But the interest aroused by the establishment of the office was insignificant when compared with the turmoil and excitement which raged around that same building after Stock became landlord of the tavern. On a memorable night in the winter of 1838-39, the Doctor gave a party, to which he invited nearly the entire neighborhood, and many others from all quarters of the township. Certain young men, living in the vicinity of Le Roy, were slighted by the keeper of the caravansary for some reason known only to himself, they receiving no summons to the festive scene. As an offset to the pleasures in which they were denied participation, these youths joined together and sought solace in a coon-hunting expedition, which they planned for the same night on which Stock had his party. Returning from the hunt at a late hour and finding the fun still going on at Stock's, the young Nimrods, standing in the street before the hotel door, fired a salute of five musket shots in the air and then scattered. This was on a Wednesday. The following Monday, an officer of the law, affectionately referred to by Westfield folks as a "basswood" Constable from Medina, appeared at Le Roy at Dr. Stock's instance and arrested eight participants in the shooting performance of the previous week. The double quartette, who, having made music on their muskets, were thus called to account



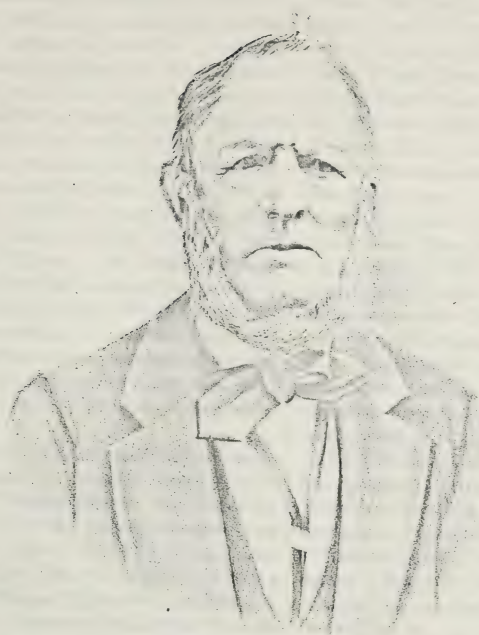
as inciters of a riot, were Oliver Morton, David King, Henry Collier, Reuben Kinney, Calvin Kidder, N. W. Ellis, T. B. Ellis and Orrin Buckingham. The Constable and his eight prisoners started back to Medina in a wagon; but, when the officer reached the county seat, he had only Morton, Buckingham and Kinney in his keeping. The other five had taken French leave at or near La Fayette Center, running off in the direction of Chippewa Lake. However, in a day or so, all were recaptured and the entire party of eight were lodged in jail. A preliminary hearing before Squire Olcott resulted in his binding all of them over to the Court of Common Pleas, the bond in each individual case being fixed at the snug sum of \$1,500! Mr. Joshua Bailey and two other wealthy citizens furnished bail for the appearance of them all. These transactions altogether occupied about a week, and in that week the quiet population of Westfield had lashed itself into a state of indignation and excitement seldom seen in a community of law-abiding people. The prevailing sentiment was intense and bitter against Dr. Stock and all others engaged in the prosecution of the young men. When, after the usual delays, a jury trial was at last had in the spring of 1840, Westfield men and women crowded to Medina to attend the sittings of the court. The indicted parties seemed least interested in the case, for they played ball with the boys of Medina even while the trial was going on. But their defense was ably managed by Mr. Benedict, of Elyria, and so plainly did he make it to appear that the alleged "riot" was merely a piece of innocent and harmless sport that a general verdict of acquittal was returned. This favorable issue, instead of allaying the general excitement, caused it to break out afresh. An indignation meeting was held, attended by a large part of Westfield's population, and a set of resolutions adopted which plainly informed the world, that, in the opinion of the people,

the township would be greatly benefited by Dr. Caleb Stock's immediate removal. Stock promptly brought an action for defamation and slander against the persons who had thus plainly expressed their opinions about him. Judge Samuel McClure, now the leading member of the Summit County bar, represented Stock, and Hon. David Tod, afterward Governor of Ohio, appeared for the people, who were made defendants. The trial, in the fall of 1840, resulted in a verdict of \$5 for plaintiff, which compelled the wrathful citizens of Westfield to adjust the costs!

The angry passions engendered by this episode were swallowed up or swept away by the Washingtonian movement in 1843-44, which enlisted in the cause of temperance the active services and hearty sympathy of all Westfield people—sympathies and services which again displayed themselves many years afterward in the vigorous conduct of a Sons of Temperance Lodge. Since war times, no organized band of temperance workers have made themselves prominent in the township, but the present feelings of the people in this matter, are evidenced by the fact that no liquor is now sold anywhere in Westfield.

An anti-slavery sentiment first appeared in the summer of 1831, when Mr. Halsey Hulburt, coming from Enfield, Conn., settled on the farm where he now resides, in the extreme eastern part of the township, and about one mile from Seville. At the election of 1840, three anti-slavery votes were cast in Westfield, the electors being Halsey Hulburt, William Hulburt and Dominie Williams, who had come from Oberlin to teach the Center School. The home of Halsey Hulburt has sheltered a few fugitive slaves, and from its friendly doors they have marched on to an enduring freedom. It never was a "regular station" on the underground railway, being a little aside from the customary route followed by seekers of liberty; and yet it had its visitors. In 1843, two fleeing negroes





*Rufus Framen*





came to Hulburt's house from Harrisville, and, after a short stop, hastened northward. One of them was remarkably intelligent. Both went armed to the teeth, fully prepared to fight for their liberty against large odds. A colored brother in distress slipped into the house one night in 1850, in the dead of winter, whose feet were frozen and full of gravel, a pair of fine boots stolen from his former master, being too badly cut and worn to be of any service or protection. This man was bound for Detroit, and he got there in good time. In 1859, an entire family of fugitives (father, mother and five children) spent one night at Hulburt's. So fearful of danger were they, and so timid, even in the house of a true friend and a fearless defender, that they all insisted on sleeping in the same room. No amount of persuasion or assurance of security could induce the father to have any member of his family even beyond the reach of his protecting arm.

From the records of the older churches many interesting items of township history can be gleaned. A Baptist Church was regularly chartered in 1835, the original incorporators being Joshua Bailey, Rufus Freeman, Levi Chapman, William Hulburt, John Mead and a few others. William Hulburt was chosen first Clerk, and was continued in the office through almost the entire life of the organization, Mr. L. D. Ellis serving the final term. Rev. Rufus Freeman was the first Pastor, and preached occasionally until the church's death. Other Pastors filled the pulpit as follows: Rev. D. A. Randall, 1840-42—since quite noted as an author; Rev. J. Manning, 1842-45; Rev. Thomas E. Inman, 1846-49; Rev. J. G. Edwards, 1850-51; Rev. J. H. Collins, 1852. After 1852, there was no preaching, except now and then by Rev. Freeman, and, in 1858, the church died, its dismemberment caused by differences on political subjects.

The first Congregational Church and Society was incorporated by an act passed February 21,

1834, and articles were issued to Enoch Stiles, George Collier, Ebenezer Fowler and Noble Stiles. The society was organized April 7, 1834. First officers: Ebenezer Fowler, Moderator; Sylvanus Jones, William Henry and Calvin Chapin, Trustees; William Russell, Secretary; Enoch Stiles, Treasurer; Benjamin Kidder, Collector; Rev. John McCrea, Pastor, up to June, 1834. On June 1, 1834, Rev. Joel Goodell "commenced preaching half of the time for one year." A meeting was held in the town hall at Le Roy, November 19, 1835, at which Noble Stiles offered a donation of land, lying north of the west half of the public square, and it was voted to build a church. Three weeks later Noble Stiles, George Collier and Thomas J. Dewey were appointed a building committee and went to work. April 4, 1836, this committee was instructed to build a basement story, inclose the body of the house, and proceed with the tower as far as the funds on hand would warrant. All these things were done promptly. August 14, 1837, Rev. Asaph Boutelle was offered and accepted \$150 for his services as Pastor for the ensuing year. Rev. William B. Ransom preached in 1839, his term ending January 2, 1840. Rev. O. Littlefield preached one year, beginning November 7, 1841. In 1843, on the 1st of June, Rev. J. P. Stuart, a talented and eloquent, but eccentric man, commenced to preach, under an engagement for one year; but, at the end of ten months, he was dismissed at his own request. The spring of 1844 found Stuart at the head of a large company of Westfield enthusiasts, some of them members of his former flock, who went to the banks of the Ohio River, in Belmont County, and started a community on the Fourier system. This colony lived less than one year.

More than ten years passed in which the Congregational Church maintained but a feeble existence. Finally, on the 29th of May, 1859, formal steps were taken to enter the Methodist Episcopal Conference, and the transformation



into a Methodist Church was gradually accomplished. The Methodist believers who, as previously noted, banded themselves together in 1819, maintained an organization for several years in the western part of the township, but deaths and removals broke up their band. In 1850, a new nucleus started at Le Roy, and so rapid was its development, that in 1859 it was ready to absorb the Congregational Church in its entirety. The first minister of the new church, after the consolidation, was Rev. L. F. Ward. The present Pastor is Rev. G. W. Huddleston, and the church is populous and flourishing. The house of worship is a substantial frame edifice, standing on the very site donated by Noble Stiles in 1835.

The Universalist Church was organized in the month of May, 1839, the preliminary meetings being held in the old schoolhouse and the Baptist Church, which stood upon a little eminence just west of the center. Alfred Peck was Moderator of these meetings, and Asa Farnum served as Clerk. Asa Farnum, Alfred Peck, Selah Beach, Simpson Simmons and Joseph Reynolds, Jr., drafted the constitution of the society. The roll of original members contains the names of forty-four men and forty-six women. Rev. Alfred Peck was the first Pastor. In the minutes of the church, under date of January 22, 1847, there is a record of the purchase of a site for a meeting-house from John Clyne, "being eighty-four feet front on the public square, and extending north far enough to include one-half acre, exclusive of the road." Price paid for ground, \$60, which was paid by subscription. One year later, the building operations began, and the dedication occurred June 16, 1849. Another quotation from the minutes of historic interest is this: "Brother Eber Mallory was killed by a log rolling on him on the 7th day of August, 1849." With the exception of a slight schism in 1853, involving a very few members, this church has led a life of prosperity and peace, and to-day is in vigorous condition.

Mrs. Abbie Danforth now conducts regular services in the comfortable frame building erected on the half-acre bought thirty-three years ago from Clyne.

There are three other church organizations in Westfield—the Dunkard and the German Reformed, at Friendsville, and the United Brethren, in the southwestern section of the township. These were all organized about 1873, and all have prospered and grown strong in the seven intervening years. Rev. Mr. Sponsler was first Pastor for the German Reformed congregation, and Rev. Mr. Bolinger inaugurated services for the Dunkards. The former body of believers worship in a neat and comfortable house built for their own use. This edifice stands on the site of the old Methodist meeting-house, which, in recent years, was occupied by the United Brethren. About the time the German Reformed Church erected its new structure, the United Brethren also put up a good building, which they now occupy, on the road some distance south of Friendsville. The United Brethren may be regarded in part as an outgrowth of the ancient Methodist organization in the western part of Westfield. The Dunkards now worship in the Friendsville Schoolhouse, for the erection of which they subscribed \$100.

This schoolhouse, it is claimed, accommodates one of the very best country district schools in the whole county of Medina. Indeed, Westfield has cause for pride in all of the ungraded schools in her six subdistricts. In each, about seven months instruction is given annually, male teachers being generally employed in the winter, and females in the summer, season. The Le Roy special district was created in the year 1872. In the following year, a beautiful building was erected on the south side of the square, which is admirably adapted to the uses of a graded school. There are three departments in the school—high, intermediate and primary—and each has its own room and teacher. A male Principal is the





special instructor of the high school, and two lady assistants attend to the other departments. The school year is of nine months' duration. The building contains a commodious hall, in which to hold public exercises, and the different departments of the school are amply equipped with good apparatus to aid and illustrate instruction. The edifice cost \$8,000. Its erection and the organization of the special district are largely due to the earnest efforts of Mr. A. G. Hawley. The present Board of Education of the township is composed of Reuben High, President; and Philip Long, John Hugunin, S. A. Earl, J. R. Stuckey and William Hulburt. Mr. L. D. Ellis acts as Clerk, being the duly elected Township Clerk. The present Trustees of the township are George F. Daniels, J. P. Reynolds and J. F. Flickinger. Two Justices of the Peace attend to the minor matters of litigation that arise. Westfield has three burial-places for its dead. One at Friendsville, an old and small inclosure just east of the center, and the main cemetery, near Le Roy, on the old Baptist Church premises. All these are controlled by the Township Trustee. The disposition among the citizens to have all public improvements well constructed, is attested by the fine iron bridge which spans Campbell's Creek, about three-fourths of a mile west of Le Roy, and the solid stone structure on the road south of and near the Center, beneath which runs a smaller stream. There is no railroad station in Westfield Township, yet three lines infringe upon its territory. The New York, Pennsylvania & Ohio grazes its southern boundary, the Tuscarawas Valley cuts off its northeastern corner, and the Wheeling & Lake Erie, now building, touches its soil in the southwestern quarter.

To complete this sketch of Westfield, there remains to be described a powerful and progressive institution, which, though mentioned last, is pre-eminent in importance, and incomparably vaster in its scope than all concerns

besides combined. He who travels extensively in the States of Indiana and Ohio, journeying, perchance, on horseback along the innumerable highways, will see in every section, aye, on every road, attached to barns and houses in conspicuous places, little tin tags with black background and lettering thereon in gilt. If he attempts to read these oft-appearing plates, he will meet but a repetition, in an unending series, of the words "Ohio Farmers' Insurance Company," the name of the institution whose base of operations is in Westfield, but whose arms stretch out in all directions through the length and breadth of two great States. The Ohio Farmers' Insurance Company was chartered on the 8th day of February, 1848. Its home office was at Le Roy, and, for the first ten years of its existence, the headquarters were in the extension of the frame store building on the east side of the public square. The first Board of Directors was thus composed: Jonathan Simmons, President, and George Collier, Asa Farnum, Isaiah Phillips, Isaac Rogers, Isaac Jones, Calvin Chapin. The first Secretary of the company was D. B. Austin. This company was the pioneer in this State, in this, that it set out to do an insurance business on farm property exclusively. The founders thought this plan would involve less risk and cheaper rates than any other. The original organization was on the plan of mutual insurance, and the taking of premium notes continued as a feature of the business until 1870. The plan of cash insurance was commenced in 1858, and from that time until 1870, business was conducted on both plans, cash and mutual. In 1870, the taking of premium notes was abolished, and, since then, the company has done an exclusively cash business. The men who have acted as the Company's Presidents, and their terms of office are Jonathan Simmons, 1848 to 1852; Calvin Chapin, 1852 to 1858; Rufus Freeman, 1858 to 1870; James C. Johnson, 1870 to present time. In the office of



Secretary and Treasurer, D. B. Austin was succeeded by L. D. Ellis, who served from 1853 to 1858; A. G. Hawley followed, 1858 to 1866, and, from 1866 to this time, the post has been held by A. H. Hawley. The number of Directors was increased from seven to nine in 1878, and three are now elected annually for three-year terms. The members of the present board are James C. Johnson, Oliver Morton, Nelson Harris, S. H. Pomeroy, F. M. Ashley, J. H. Freeman, Samuel Smith, John B. Chase and T. G. Lewis. Regular meetings of the board are held the second Wednesday of each month, and the annual meeting day is the last Wednesday in September. Two adjusters are in the constant employ of the company. In nearly thirty-three years of actual business, the Ohio Farmers' has insured farm property to a total valuation of \$500,000,000. Losses amounting to more than \$2,000,000 have been paid in the same period. It is claimed that this far exceeds the showing of any other company doing an exclusively farm business. The operations of the Ohio Farmers' were confined strictly to the State of Ohio until 1877, when they were pushed out into Indiana also. In its first ten years, the company issued 16,000 policies; the next eight years, about 50,000; the next fourteen years, about 255,000. In the year ending September 15, 1880, 26,000 policies were issued, covering property worth \$35,000,000. Every year the company's income has exceeded its expenditures, giving it a growing surplus.

With the increase in business, the facilities and conveniences for its transaction have been multiplied. In 1858, the office was removed from the frame building at the corner, to a neat brick edifice near by. The latter became a part of the present office, which was built in 1866. The chance visitor in Westfield, after strolling through the quiet roads that thread the township, having noted the prevailing repose and peace that rests upon the farms, having viewed those attractive and well-peopled villages, Friendsville and Le Roy, will be surprised, beyond measure, when he happens to enter the office of this great insurance company. The large and well-constructed building, the spacious and finely furnished rooms occupied by the busy Secretary and his force of clerks, the clicking of type-writers and the ring of the telephone—all these cause him to imagine, for a moment, that he has been suddenly transported from the rural village to some great commercial city.

To the student of history, Westfield, when viewed in its various stages of development, presents an interesting illustration of the wholesome growth which has repeatedly attended institutions that have been planted by pioneers from Connecticut, Massachusetts and New York, watched and tended by the patient, careful immigrants from Pennsylvania, and finally made to flourish and bear fruit, by men of energy and talent, to the manor born.







## CHAPTER XX.\*

HINCKLEY TOWNSHIP—A BROKEN SURFACE—THE PARADISE OF HUNTERS—A FARMERS' HUNT—A CHAPTER OF ACCIDENTS—CHURCHES—SCHOOL STATISTICS.

HINCKLEY forms the extreme northeast township in Medina County. Its surface is broken by rugged and abrupt ledges, and long, high and narrow ridges extend through its territory from north to south, and from south to northwest. The sides of these jutting precipices are curiously worn out, and, in many places, deep caves extend into the rocky ground, whence issue fine springs of never-failing water. The stroller over these extended ledges sees many astonishing passages in the rock, made by the falling away of large masses, consequent upon the undermining of the softer rock below. The soil of the township is loamy, for the most part, affording a growth of chestnut, walnut, hickory and oak timber. Rocky River, known as the East Branch of that stream, enters the township in the northeast corner; it flows southerly, passing into Summit County, skirting the eastern line of Hinckley Township. At the extreme southeast corner, it again enters the township, making a large bend at the southern extremity of the "Ridge," and then flows northwesterly through the township, passing one-half mile east of the center, gathering the water of numberless springs. It passes into Cuyahoga County directly north of Hinckley Center. This river was once a powerful torrent, filling the broad valley, through which it now so quietly flows, with a rushing, seething flood of water.

Hinckley was marked off under the Connecticut Land Company Survey as Township 4, Range 13; its boundaries are Granger on the south, Brunswick on the west, Cuyahoga County on the north, and Summit County on the east.

\* Contributed by Charles Nell.

The area of Hinckley exceeds that of any other of the townships of Medina County. Its total acreage is 17,133, this being over 1,000 acres in excess of any one of its sister townships. York Township comprises but 13,436, it being the smallest in the county. This difference in the surface area is partially due to the swellings and elevation of ground, which forms a distinguishing feature in the physical construction of this township.

In the distribution of the lands of the Western Reserve among the original land speculators who bought it of the State of Connecticut, the township of Hinckley fell to the lot of Judge Samuel Hinckley, of Northampton, Mass. He was known as one of the shrewdest land speculators, and, aside from his Hinckley possessions, he owned numerous tracts of land in Medina and other counties of the Western Reserve. He was sharp and exacting in his dealings with the purchasers of his lands. He had been educated for a lawyer, and during his life-time was known as a prominent member of the bar of Massachusetts. His dealings in Western lands made him a wealthy man. He died in his native town in Northampton, Mass., 1840, greatly respected by all his neighbors and acquaintances. The following anecdote, that has been related of him, illustrates the prevailing idea, in those days, of the future value of Western lands. Gov. Strong, of Massachusetts, was a brother-in-law of Hinckley, and also owner of tracts of land on the Reserve. One day they were discussing the propriety of putting their land into market. Strong thought it best, as the saving in taxes and interest would more than equal the rise in value.





Hinckley dissented, "Why," said he "the time will come when the Ohio lands will sell for more than \$10 per acre." "Yes," replied Strong, "but, before that time comes, you and I will be in Heaven." "Ah! that's the devil of it," said the Judge.

When the tide of emigration began to flow westward from the Eastern States in the second decade of this century, Judge Hinckley was not slow in placing the most of his lands on sale. He appointed his son-in-law, Joseph Lyman, who had located at Ravenna, in Portage County, as agent of his Western domain. Hinckley being rough and broken in surface, no particular effort was made by the owner to sell the land. He did not even have a survey taken of its area until several years after the adjoining township had been quite generally settled. This territory remained a dense wilderness, and, as a consequence, the wild animals made it a place of refuge, and hid in its dark shades and cavernous recesses. The valley of the Rocky River, from the Big Bend, on the Granger line northward, and the western side of the great Hinckley Ridge, was considered among the settlers the hunter's paradise. A number of the Wyandots and Seneca tribe of Indians made the township a favorite hunting resort when the country east, north and south, had already been well settled by white people. After the year 1812, they pitched their lodge but once or twice in this neighborhood, and since that time have entirely disappeared, moving West. Now and then, a few stray hunters and trappers of the copper-colored nation made their appearance up to the year 1820, but they remained shy of the white settlers.

Two remarkable events that occurred in the early days of the township have been preserved for record. The first was the hanging of an Indian squaw in the summer of 1806. She had been accused of witchcraft in predicting that darkness would come over the earth. Her prophecy caused alarm among the tribe, and a

council was called. It was decided that she should suffer death by strangulation by having invoked the powers of the evil one. Accordingly, she was hung in the month of May, 1806, on the limb of a large tree that had fallen across the river bed, on a ledge near the Big Bend, on the Granger line, amidst the chant and howling of the savages. It is said that several white men were instrumental in her execution. The body was left swinging to the tree, and remained there as a warning, and as a carrion for the vultures of the air to feed upon, until it finally dropped into the river below. In the month of June following the tragic death of the Indian prophetess, a total eclipse of the sun took place. It is not known how the squaw got her information of the astronomical phenomenon that was to occur, but it was probably based on premonitions induced by events of a similar kind, which had always been looked upon by the Indians with a sort of mystical terror.

The depredations and annoyances by the wolves and bears whose haunts were in Hinckley, caused the farmers and settlers of Medina, Summit and Cuyahoga Counties to resolve on a war of extermination against these beasts. A meeting was called in Strongsville in the fall of 1818, to make arrangements for the great hunt, and enlist everybody within available distance to help in the slaughter chase. A committee to conduct the hunt was selected, and they soon issued a proclamation to the farmers of the three counties. The day fixed upon was the 24th day of December. The order was that the farmers gather by early day-break, armed with rifles, guns, pitchforks, flails, clubs, and every available implement of war; form a continuous line on the four sides of the township, and, at a given signal, advance toward its center, killing, shooting and slaughtering all game that came within reach. A half mile square was marked out by blazed trees in the center of the township, and on this



line they were all to stop, and take position, and from there kill and shoot the game within reach. Cleveland, Newburg and Royalton were to form on the north line, Brecksville and Richfield on the east line, Bath and Granger on the south, and Medina, Brunswick and Strongsville on the west. Preparations on an extensive scale at once commenced throughout the entire region, and the excitement for the impending chase began to run high. The 24th day of December came. It was a clear, brisk day. A slight crust of snow covered the ground, and the little streams and the ground were frozen hard. Before the morning sunlight had commenced to steal through the leafless and shivering trees, the noise and laughter of men advancing from every direction toward the line, the bark of dogs and the sharp ring of rifle shots re-echoed through the woods from far and near. Startled and alarmed, the deer started from their lair and bounded in long strides for refuge in the wild confines of the central township. Many of these animals were overhauled in their flight by the swift bullet before the fun of the day had really commenced. The wolves and bears just returning from their night's raids in the settlements, sneak off in precipitous flight before the unusual noise, and hide in the thick swamps and cavernous recesses of Hinckley. Soon the large hunting host is in line on the four sides of the battle-ground. The men take their positions, the companies touching at the four corners, and soon the square is perfect, making a continuous line of twenty miles on the inside. The north line, composed of the settlers of Cuyahoga County, numbers about one hundred and thirty men, many of them from the then infant settlement of Cleveland. It is under command of T. N. Ferris, of Royalton. The east line has about one hundred and twenty-five men, and is under charge of Judge Welton, of Richfield, and Carry Oaks, of Brecksville. The south line, under command

of Zenas Hamilton, number about one hundred men, and the west line, under Abraham Freeze, of Brunswick, numbers about one hundred and twenty men. These five Captains form the Board of Managers, and the whole affair is under their immediate control and direction. The hunters stand alert and anxiously wait for the signal to pass. Then a long-drawn blast from a horn comes from the high hills in the north and echoes down the valley. It is answered on the west, and down it passes along its line, then it comes east, and up back it goes to the north. As the last bugle sound dies away, the word "all ready," passes from mouth to mouth, and with it the advance begins. Steadily the columns press on, silently at first, then comes a wild shout and soon the echoing roll of musketry, as the wild game dashes through the woods and the thick underbrush before the advancing host. The north column is the first to close in the square on the center, then follows east and west and south. It was almost a solid phalanx of men, standing close to one another.

Driven into madness and utter despair by the terrible confusion and slaughter, the deer, led by the stags, dash in droves against the lines; many are shot, others are forked and clubbed, and some, the larger and fleetier, escape—bounding over the heads of the hunters. The frightened animals, quivering and foaming, with their large eyeballs protruding, rush back and forth, from side to side, and the massacre continues. The orders are strict, that all firing must be done low and toward the center, to prevent injury to the men. In one of the rushes made by the deer against the north column, Lathrop Seymour accidentally receives a buckshot in his shoulder and one in his left leg. He is disabled, and is conveyed back to the rear to have his wounds dressed. It is now past noon, and the carcasses of several hundred deer lie strewn on the ground through the woods. One or two bears and several wolves





had been killed up to this time. The impossibility soon became apparent to the captains, that all the game enclosed in the square could be killed—and especially the bears and wolves, the extermination of which was really the purpose of the hunt—without another advance being made from the four sides. This could not be done without endangering the life and limbs of the hunters. A council of war was called, and it was decided that the lines should hold their positions, and that no further long-range firing be done, and the killing of deer and small game be prohibited. William Coggsell, of Bath, Ohio, the prince of huntsmen in his day in Ohio, and "Riley the Rover," another famous hunter, who was located at Cleveland, and whose proper name has slipped the memory of the old settlers, were then ordered, with eight more men, to advance toward the center, and "stir up" the wolves and bears, and have them come out. The men on the lines were to keep watch and kill the animals as they came out from their retreats. The men entered the arena, and their experience is best told in the words of Coggsell, who started in in advance of the little squad: \* \* \* "I soon came in contact with plenty of wolves and bears, and shot several of them, when I saw near the center a monstrous bear—I think the largest I ever saw of that species. We wounded him twice, so that he dropped each time, when he retreated toward the south line, and I followed in hot pursuit. About this time, the south line advanced about forty rods; they had become so enthusiastic in the hunt that they could be restrained no longer, and this brought them within a short distance of the bear and myself. My dog, which I had left in the rear, seeing me after the bear, broke away from the young man who had him in charge, and came running to my assistance. We met the bear just as he was crossing a little creek on the ice. I ran up the bank within twenty-five or thirty feet of the bear, and stood several feet above him. About

this time, the men on the south line commenced shooting at the bear, apparently regardless of me and my dog. There were probably 100 guns fired within a very short space of time, and the bullets sounded to me very much like a hail-storm. As soon as old Bruin got his head still enough so I dare shoot, I laid him out. While they were firing so many guns, a great many persons hallooed to me to come out or I would be shot; but, as it happened, neither myself nor dog were hurt. The bear soon succumbed to the hot lead that was being poured into his body. When the monster had been killed, the south line broke, regardless of all orders, and they were soon joined by the three other lines." Now a general search commenced in the center and through the haunts and caves on the sides of the hills. Several more bears and wolves were found and killed, the last one being a wounded wolf which had secreted itself in the top of a fallen tree. Firing now closed, darkness was coming on. The men were all called together by a trumpet-call near the spot where the big bear had been killed. They were ordered to discharge their guns and then stack them. Then the labor of dragging the game commenced. First, the wolves were drawn in, and there were just seventeen. It was then decided that the bounty money—then paid by the State for wolf scalps—should be expended in refreshments for the hunting host. Accordingly, two men were dispatched to the settlement of Richfield, several miles on the east, there to procure what they could find, and return with it to the scene of the day's action. Within a few hours, the men returned, bringing a barrel of whisky, drawn in a sled by a yoke of oxen. In the meantime, the other game had been gathered, and it was found that there were over three hundred deer and twenty-one bears. A rousing big fire was built, and the scene which had recently been a vast slaughter-pen, had now turned into one of boisterous jubilation and merriment. A roll-call



was made, and it was found that there were 454 men on the ground. And then, as "Riley, the Rover," of Cleveland, the bard of the occasion, describes it in his lines on this hunt, composed some years after:

"They set the barrel on one end,  
And stove the other in;  
They used for tapster to attend  
A ladle made of tin.

"The whisky, made by honest men,  
Was drank by men upright,  
And none would deem it hurtful then  
To drink on such a night.

"Then every man drank what he chose,  
And all were men of spunk;  
But not a fighting wrangle rose,  
And not a man got drunk."

The word was now passed that the whole squad camp here for the night. A half-dozen men soon had hold of the big bear, drawing him up by the hind legs; jerked off the skin, and the fat, greasy carcass was soon roasting and spitting before the large camp fire. But few of the hunters had brought a little "Johnny cake," and a slice of bacon or venison, and they all evinced a sharp appetite for something to eat. When the roasting had been completed, an onslaught was made with bowie knives on the body. But, as there was no salt in the camp, the food served became nauseating. From this it went to song, then speeches, and finally the night wound up with anecdotes of adventure and pioneer life. As morning came, a division of the game was made. A committee consisting of Henry Hoyt, of Liverpool; John Bigelow, of Richfield, and William Coggsell, of Bath, was elected to make the division. After the proportionate shares had been allotted to the different companies, the journey homeward was commenced, some of the hunters living twenty and thirty miles away. Many of the men who had congregated here on the wonderful occasion had been entire strangers to one another, but, after the night's strange and unusual festivities,

they had grown on terms of brotherly friendship. It had been a joy and a pleasure to all of these sturdy pioneers who were the first to unfold the beauties of the beautiful "Reserve," to meet so many of their kind here, isolated and alone as their days had to be spent then in battling with the forest and clearing their farms. The game was tied on sticks, and then away the hunters wandered up the hills and down the valley, north, east, west and south, in twos, with the end of a stick on their shoulders, the trusty rifle under their arms and a deer, wolf or bear hanging between, its bloody head dragging over the frozen, snowy ground.

It was in the year following this hunt, that a survey was made of Hinckley, by Abraham Freeze, of Brunswick. The township was divided into 100 lots, each containing 160 acres. The land was then placed on the market for \$3 per acre. In the eastern part of the township, Freeze found a "squatter" named Walton, who was the first settler in the township, and the only one at the time of its first survey. Where Walton had come from, or where he moved, has never been learned. He was an industrious man, and had made considerable improvement on what is considered the best lot in the township. Freeze paid Walton for his improvements, and bought the lot of Judge Hinckley. A few years later, the buyer sold it to Nathan Wilson. In 1820, Frederick Deming bought the lot adjoining the one owned by Abraham Freeze, and made the first permanent settlement in Hinckley Township, in that part which is known as the "Ridge." Here he lived alone for several years. In 1822, James Stillman came with his family from the State of New York, and bought land in this neighborhood, building a cabin in the immediate vicinity of Deming's. Stillman soon died. He was buried on a knoll a little way west of the settlement, where now is located the Ridge burial-ground. His death so discouraged his family that they returned at once to New York. In the spring following, Thomas





N. Easton came alone into Hinckley Township from Lee, Berkshire Co., Mass., and commenced to clear a tract of land that he had bought from Hinkley, which was also located in the vicinity of Deming's settlement. He was soon joined by his young wife, who followed him from their native State, where the two had been married only the year previous. Next came the families of Jared Thayer, Joab Loomis, Robbin Stillman, Curtis Bullard and Ingersoll Porter, all locating close together in the eastern part of the township.

A number of squatters took possession of lands in the extreme northwest part of the township, some time during the year 1821. It is not known whence they came, nor at what time they located on these lands. Their names were Joe Brink, John Stow, Bill Pool and Tytus Richardson. When regular transfer sales of the land were made to actual settlers, these "squatters" vacated the grounds and removed to parts unknown. David Babcock was the first permanent settler in this part of Hinckley. He was born in Albany County, N. Y. In 1818, he married the daughter of Isaac Isham, of Syracuse, and, in the spring of 1819, he, with his father-in-law and family, removed to Ohio, traveling in wagons, with three yoke of oxen. They settled in Strongsville. The next year, young Babcock bought 160 acres of land in Hinckley Township, at \$3 per acre. He commenced at once making improvements on the new land, by building a log cabin, clearing several acres, and set out an orchard. His wife remained with her parents for several years. In 1826, the old folks moved down from Strongsville and located on a piece of land they had bought, about a mile northeast of David Babcock's farm.

These few settlers continued to be annoyed by wolves, despite the great slaughter of wild game that had taken place only a few years previous. The pioneers were encouraged to trap or kill wolves by a liberal bounty given for their

scalps, and paid by the State. To save their flocks, the settlers built high log pens, covered over, and shut up their sheep at night. Woe to the man who neglected that precaution! A farmer in the southern part of the township one day went to mill, and returned late in the evening. As he came home in the night, he saw his flock of forty sheep lie quietly in the open air, close to his house. He felt tired, and everything seemed so quiet, that he thought he would run the risk of the wolves catching his sheep that night. But, in the morning, thirty-nine were found dead, mangled and torn by wolves. Many and various devices were resorted to by the settlers to rid themselves of these pests. In March, 1823, William Coggs-well, then living in Granger, came up into Hinckley with parts of a steer that he had lost by disease. He deposited one quarter on the Remson Brook, in the south part of the township, several rods from the stream, on one side, and the other part the same distance on the other side. Then he took large, moss-covered stones, and arranged them in the brook, several feet apart, as stepping-stones for the wolves to cross upon, for he knew that wolves, like sheep, dislike to step into water, and, if they have occasion to cross a stream too wide to jump over, will seek out a log to walk upon, or such a place as this trapper had fixed. In place of one of these stones, he put a large, double-spring wolf-trap, with ponderous jaws, armed with sharp spikes. This trap he covered over with moss, so that it was nicely concealed, and resembled a moss-covered stone. Here Coggs-well caught eleven wolves before his bait was all consumed.

There was living at this time in Hinckley, just a little way north of the Granger line, a Mr. Carpenter. His cattle strayed away in search of leeks and other herbage, and failed to come home at night; so the next morning he sent a boy, about twelve years old, who was living with him, in search of the cattle. The boy,





accompanied by a small dog, took his way to the brook bottom, where leeks grew most numerous, hoping there to find the cattle. The dog, in running about, found Coggswell's wolf-bait, and began to eat it. The boy, seeing the dog eating something on the other side of the stream, thought he would go over and see what it was, and, as the water was too wide to jump, he strove to cross on the stepping-stones so nicely arranged, never suspecting a trap was concealed there. The second step he made, snap went the trap, and he yelled out with pain. His outcry so frightened the little dog that he ran home and left the boy alone in his trouble. This was about 10 in the morning. In vain the boy tried to get loose. He tugged and strove with all his might to loosen the jaws, but they, with their cruel spikes, held him fast. Mr. Carpenter, seeing the dog come home without the boy, after a while began to suspect there was something wrong; so he started off for the double purpose of finding the cattle and boy. About 4 o'clock in the afternoon, he found him, and strove to get him out of the trap by standing on the spring with his feet and using his hands at the same time; but, failing in that, he carried the boy and trap to a log, and, getting a couple of handspikes or levers, by putting the ends under the log and resting them over the springs and bearing down, he loosened the springs and finally got the boy out. The poor fellow could not walk a step. The spikes had pierced the flesh on his foot, and it had been so tightly squeezed for so long a time that it had become swollen and benumbed. Mr. Carpenter took the boy on his back and the trap under his arm, and carried them home. The next day, Coggswell visited his trap and found it gone. From appearances, he rightly judged that it had been carried off by human hands, and not been dragged off by wolves; so he went to Carpenter, who was the person or settler living nearest, to inquire about the trap. Here he found the boy and trap, and learned

that Carpenter had gone to Squire Freeze's to see if he could not sue Coggswell for damages, but, as he had received no encouragement, he came back home, and, Coggswell being still there, Carpenter refused to give up the trap, and said the boy ought to keep it. Coggswell contended he had a right to set the trap where he did, and that it was the boy's misfortune that got him into the trap, and not his (Coggswell's) fault. Carpenter finally reluctantly gave up the trap.

Josiah Piper came into Ohio from his home in Massachusetts, in the spring of 1818. He located at first at Bath, working for John Hall, in that township. The young pioneer, before he had come out West to look for a new home, had affianced himself to a young lady of his neighborhood. He worked industriously to get a good start so he might return, marry his lady-love, and, as his wife, bring her back to the settlement in Ohio. He bought a tract in the center of Hinckley, after a few years, and soon accumulated sufficient funds to go back East and marry. Within a few years, he returned to Ohio and settled in Hinckley. He soon became a man quite influential in the public affairs of the township. He was appointed one of the Associate Judges of Medina County, in 1832, and served for a number of years.

In 1824, Daniel L. Conant located with his family of three children, one mile north of the Center. They had come out from the State of New York. After remaining in Hinckley for a number of years, he removed with his family elsewhere, having joined the Methodist Conference of Northern Ohio as a stated minister. Orlando Wilcox, with his wife and one child, settled on a lot adjoining that of Josiah Piper's, near the Center, in the spring of 1831. One-half mile east of this point stood a small log cabin, and on the other side of the road, a little further east, was a log building, put up a few years previous, by one Ball, for a blacksmithshop. Ball had sickened and returned to



Richfield, where he had formerly lived, to be nursed and doctored, but he soon died, and he never used the building. Dr. Wilcox took possession of this building for a time, keeping his family in it until he could build himself one on his own lands. It had a "puncheon" floor and a roof of "shakes"—no boards overhead. The doctor removed with his family to the southern part of the county in 1838, living for a few years at Friendsville, in Westfield Township. He then returned to Hinckley, and thereafter occupying his old possessions.

Lyman and Hiram Miller, father and son, came out to Hinckley in the spring of 1833, from their home in Monroe County, N. Y., to view the lands in the township. They purchased 650 acres in the western part of Hinckley, returned to their home in the East, and, within a few months, came back with their families to Ohio, settling on the newly acquired territory. The two settlers had engaged the services of Asahel Welton, to erect a cabin for them on the new lands. But, he being unable to find the exact locality where the owners desired their building, had to defer the construction of it until their coming. These families had come by the Erie Canal to Buffalo, and thence across Lake Erie to Cleveland, whence they moved by wagons to Brunswick. There they engaged Thomas James to pilot them through the woods to their new lands on the line of Hinckley Township.

The accessions to the settlement on the "Ridge," in the eastern part, had become quite numerous by this time; among the new arrivals being Nathan Damon with his family, and Jacob Shaw with his family, both of whom came from Massachusetts in the spring of 1831. The succeeding year Caleb Damon, with his wife and two daughters, Esther and Eliza, and their mother and grandmother, Lucy (who died several years after the arrival in Hinckley, at the remarkable age of one hundred and three years), and also Arad Damon with his family of four

children, came together and settled in the neighborhood.

In the fall of 1831, Erastus Waite, who had come out that year from Franklin, Mass., settled on land near the center adjoining Judge Piper's and Dr. Wilcox's land. He bought two acres cleared land of one Benjamin Buck, and moved with his family into the cabin the latter had constructed.

The civil organization of Hinckley Township took place in the year 1825. The first election was held on the 25th day of September of this year, and took place in a little log schoolhouse in the southeastern part of the town. Thomas N. Easton, Jared Thayer and D. M. Conant acted as Judges of Election, and Reuben Ingersol and Abraham Freeze as Clerks. Reuben Ingersol, T. N. Easton and Josiah Piper were elected Trustees; Jared Thayer, Clerk; Joab Loomis and Samuel Porter, Overseers of the Poor; Curtis Bullard and Richard Swift, Fence Viewers; D. M. Conant and Jonathan Fisk, Listers and Appraisers; Fred Deming, Treasurer, and Thomas Stow and D. Babcock, Constables. On a promise made by Judge Hinkley, that, if the settlers of the township would name it after him, in his honor, he would deed them a lot of 160 acres for school purposes, or any use they might choose to put it to. It was therefore voted by the people that it should be named Hinckley. When, a year later, Judge Hinckley made his annual visit to the colony to collect his dues, he was reminded of his promise. The Judge hemmed and hawed, said he had been very unfortunate the past year, had met with heavy losses, had had much sickness in his family, and really did not feel able to make so large a gift. He finally compromised the matter by making out the following deed of transfer, and giving it to the Township Trustees and their successors:

*To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting: Know YE, That I, Samuel Hinkley, of Northampton, Mass., for and in consideration of one dollar current money of the Commonwealth aforesaid, to me in hand*





paid, before the ensailing hereof by Thomas N. Easton, John Jones and Andrew McCreery, Trustees of the township of Hinckley, Medina County, Ohio, the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge and am fully satisfied, contented and paid, have given, granted, bargained, sold, aliened, released, conveyed and confirmed; and by these presents do freely, clearly and absolutely grant, give, bargain, sell, alien, release, convey and confirm unto them the said Easton, Jones and McCreery, Trustees as aforesaid, and their successors in office, forever, the following described parcels of land lying in Hinckley aforesaid, to wit:

A parcel of land bounded as follows: Beginning at a point 9 chains and 75 links, bearing south 88° west from the center stake of said township, in the center of the highway; thence running northwest 2 chains and 50 links; thence south 88° west 5 chains; thence south 2° east 5 chains; thence north 88° east 5 chains; thence north 2° west 2 chains and 50 links to the place of beginning, containing 2 acres and 80 rods, be the same more or less—to be by said Trustees appropriated to such purposes as shall best subserve the interests of the town—it being understood that all roads now established and lying in any of the above-described lands are not hereby conveyed.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the before-granted premises, with the appurtenances and privileges thereto belonging to them, the said Easton, Jones and McCreery, Trustees as aforesaid, and their successors in office, to them and their own above-mentioned use, benefit and behoof forevermore: And I, the said Samuel Hinckley, for myself and my heirs, executors and administrators, do covenant, premise and grant unto and with the said Easton, Jones and McCreery, Trustees as aforesaid, and their successors in office forever: That before, and until the ensailing hereof, I am the true, sole, proper and lawful owner and possessor of the before-granted premises, with the appurtenances; I have in myself, good right, full power and lawful authority to give, grant, bargain, sell, alien, release, convey and confirm the same as aforesaid; and that free and clear, and freely and clearly, executed, acquitted and discharged of and from all former and other gifts, grants, bargains, sales, leases, mortgages, wills, entails, jointures, doweries, thirds, executions and incumbrances whatsoever.

AND FURTHERMORE, I, the said Samuel Hinckley, for myself, my heirs, executors and administrators, do hereby covenant, promise and engage, the before-granted premises, with the appurtenances unto them, the said Easton, Jones and McCreery, and their successors in office forever, to warrant, secure and defend against

the lawful claims and demands of any person whatsoever. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal, this Twenty-third day of June, in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty-one.

SAMUEL HINCKLEY [L. S.]

Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of

JOHN RANDALL.

JOSEPH LYMAN.

Personally appeared before me, Samuel Hinckley, signer and sealer of the within instrument, and acknowledged it to be his free act and deed.

FREDERICK DEMING, J. P.

HINCKLEY, MEDINA COUNTY, OHIO, June 23, 1831.

The Hinckley people were for quite a time, during the early days, excited on the temperance question; and on various occasions it produced a state of ill-feeling and unpleasantness. Whisky was in those days one of the social elements, and no public occasion was thought complete, unless there was a good supply of liquor. One set of citizens finally decided that they would no longer assist at raisings if there was whisky; and another said as determinedly they would not if there was not whisky. Between these two factions, it was often difficult to get enough help to put up a frame without going a great distance to invite hands, or make a compromise. It thus happened, one day, that, while there was a raising on Oviatt's farm, near the Center, there was also another on the "Ridge," and, between these two, help was scarce. Oviatt liked a "drop" now and then, and so did Craig and a few others present, but they could not muster forces enough to raise without the aid of the temperance men, and so reluctantly agreed to dispense with whisky. Craig, a rough, whisky-drinking fellow, but a man of experience in barn-raisings "bossed" the job. After raising the bent, Craig called out, "There, you cold-water cusses, hold that till I tell you to let go." They did hold till they got tired and could hold no longer, and over went the bent. William West was on it, but he jumped off without injury, while a pike-pole fell and



struck Robert McCloud, fracturing his skull. Dr. Wilcox was called; he dressed the wound, and the man got well in a few weeks. This incident rather added to the ranks of the temperance people, and a society was formed which became influential and important, sustaining its organization for a number of years.

Curtis Bullard was the first Justice of the Peace. The first couple he married, and the first couple undoubtedly married in the township, were a Mr. Carr and Miss Harriet Wallace. Among the guests present, were Judge Josiah Piper and wife, Curtis Bullard and wife, and others. They had a right jolly good time; and among other amusing performances they sang:

"Scotland is burning, run, boys, run,  
Scotland is burning, fire! fire! fire!  
Pour on water," etc.

They were excellent singers, and carried all the parts to perfection. The time and occasion and spirit in which it was sung, rendered it ludicrous in the extreme. Carr stayed with his wife but three or four days, and then left her for parts unknown. The first child born in the township was a daughter to F. Deming. The latter put up the first frame dwelling ever constructed in the township. It burned down in the year 1856. The next erected was by A. Freeze and is still standing. The dwellings of the first settlers were universally built of logs. Though not as commodious as the present dwellings, the dwellers therein enjoyed as much true happiness.

Hinckley has been quite prolific in deaths by accident. F. N. Ferris was killed by the fall of a tree. Richard Swift, Jr., was killed by the accidental discharge of a rifle in his own hands. J. B. Dake was killed by the kick of a horse. S. Woodruff was killed by lightning. Caleb Damon was shot by A. Shear.

A very common method of hunting turkeys was to use a turkey-bone, with the aid of which the call of a turkey for its mate could be very

closely imitated. The hunter would lie in ambush and call until some turkey, unconscious of the fate which awaited him, would approach the hiding-place of the hunter, when he was made an easy victim of the rifle. Caleb Damon had secreted himself in this manner behind a log. Shear, who was hunting in the same locality, heard the "call," answered it, and cautiously advanced in the direction of the sound. Soon a black object was seen to rise slowly above the log, and Shear, thinking it to be a turkey, took deadly aim with his gun and fired. A cry of "My God! I am shot!" from the object at which he had discharged his rifle, apprised Shear what he had done. Instead of killing a turkey, he had sent a rifle bullet crashing through the brain of his friend and neighbor. Mr. Damon died almost instantly. Susan Sutton committed suicide at Burk's Corners by poisoning herself. R. Swift drowned himself in a well. The most remarkable in this category of accidents and incidents, is the "Whipp Case," that created a sensation at the time of its occurrence, perhaps never equaled by any event in Medina County. Robert Whipp is a wealthy land-owner in Hinckley Township. He lost his first wife by death, and was re-married to a young widow, thirty or forty years his junior, in 1876. They lived together on his farm in the central part of Hinckley. Between the hours of 11 and 12 o'clock on Saturday night, September 15, 1877, Whipp was awakened from sleep by mysterious movements on the part of his wife. He also discovered a strong and to him peculiar smell about the bed-clothing, which he afterward described as chloroform. In a few minutes he heard footsteps approaching his bed, and his wife, getting off from the bed, asked in a whisper, "Shall I put the light out?" The other voice answered "Yes." The light was then put out, and they walked away from the bed together. Whipp then asked, "Who is there?" No answer. They turned back and went into





the kitchen. Other voices were then heard, all apparently in consultation together. Soon after Whipp, who still remained in bed, heard heavy footsteps approaching, and, in a moment more, he was seized by the throat. A struggle ensued. Whipp, who is a powerfully strong man, finally succeeded in getting off from the bed onto the floor. He then saw another man, of short stature, and thick set, who came to the assistance of the first, with a rope in his hand.

At this time he recognized in the first, his young wife's brother, Lon Spensley. The other man, he did not know. The two men soon got him down on the floor and attempted to put a slip-noose rope over his head. It was a matter of life and death now, and the struggle was hard. They got the rope over his head and down as far as his mouth several times, but he desperately shoved it off; and finally, with a desperate effort, he threw the assailants from him and gained his feet. He wrenched the rope from their hands, and they backed out into the kitchen. He then ran out-doors in his night clothes and started for a neighbor's, where he remained until morning. He then had Spensley, and, soon after, his wife and a young man named Taylor, arrested. At the winter term, in 1878, of the Medina County Court of Common Pleas, the prisoners were arraigned on the charge of attempt to kill. After a most exciting trial, of several weeks in duration, they were found guilty, and sentenced to seven years' imprisonment. After a year's servitude, they were released by the Governor's pardon.

The house of Hiram Miller, in the southwestern part of the township, on the Brunswick line, became noted during the Fugitive Slave excitement as a station on the "underground railroad," and its owner was known as one of the most zealous workers and abettors to keep the runaway slave out of the clutches of the pursuing master. The negroes were brought by Festus Ganyard and Ira Ingraham from Granger, where they always found succor at the

hands of the two men, to the house of Miller. Here the slaves were detained until after reconnaissance had been made to the north, and, when the coast was found to be clear of slave-hunters, the darkies were transported by Miller and Egbert Ashley, of Strongsville, to the outlet of Rocky River, on Lake Erie, and thence they were shipped to Canada. Miller oftentimes had as many as twenty-five fugitives under his roof, and he supplied them with food and clothing to the best of his means. Aside from giving aid to the slaves in this way, Miller took a very decided and open stand among his neighbors on the great anti-slavery question, and he boldly advocated the cause by lecturing and preaching in its behalf. It created an intense excitement for a time, and on one or two occasions bodily assaults were made upon him by his neighbors, he at one time receiving serious injuries.

The pioneer industry of Hinckley forms a considerable factor in the affairs of the township. The first store was built by A. Miles, of Brunswick, who put into it a young man named Daniel Bradigum, who erected a large ashery near the store. Ashes was then the principal article of manufacture people had to sell. These ashes were converted first into black salts, and then into pearl-ash. This was before the days of saleratus. Corn-cob ashes and pearl-ash were used to raise short-cake, and the cake was baked in an iron kettle. William Comstock established the first blacksmith-shop in the township, in the eastern part. Houghton Packard built a large, three-story carding-mill in the Rocky River Valley, in the southeastern part of the township, in the year 1828. A foundry, grist-mill and distillery were added to it in the course of a few years. Business was done here for some time, until, in later years, the manufacturing and business interests shifted to the center. David Babcock built a saw-mill north of town, on "Big Brook," in 1842. He was followed in this enterprise by Warren





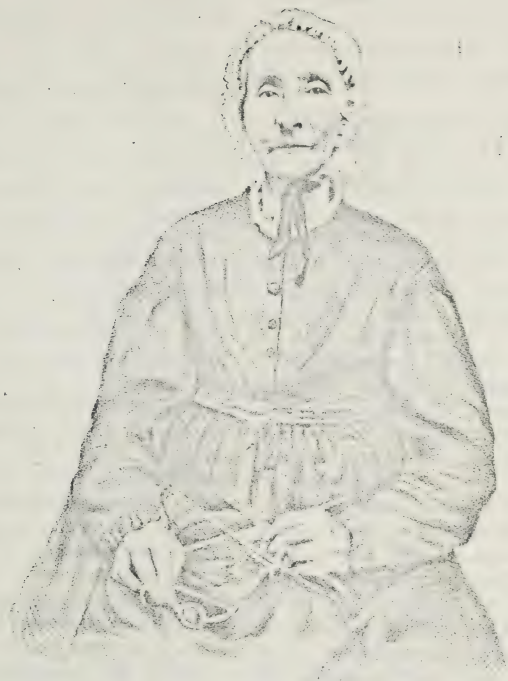
Warren and Lewis Brown, both of whom built mills a little further up the creek. In 1852, F. P. and W. L. Wetmore established a large steam saw-mill, which was afterward, in 1857, sold to Mortimer Old, who added a grist-mill. Immediately after the war, Abram Dunham erected a foundry at the Center. This was destroyed by fire on the 1st of April, 1867, but was immediately rebuilt on a larger scale. Two years later, on May 6, 1869, the fire-fiend again reduced the establishment to ashes, involving a great loss to the proprietors and the business interests of Hinckley. The workmen had just cleared out the shop, throwing the shavings, chips and refuse pieces into the engine-room to be used for kindlings and fuel, preparatory to taking off a "heat." The fire was kindled, the engine put in motion to propel the fan to increase the heat in the cupola, and they were busy in filling the molds, when suddenly they were startled by the cry of "fire," raised without. A spark had fallen among the shavings in the engine-room, and, before they were aware, it was filled with a blaze. It burst outward, ran up the siding, and soon the roof was on fire. There was a stiff breeze from the south, which blew the fire directly into the upper room, where the wood-shop was located. The workmen could save nothing; their coats and vests, hanging up on pegs, were burned. About two rods to the east stood the warehouse, filled with plows, cultivators, etc. Soon the west side of that building and the roof were on fire. The roofs of Waite's and Riley's barns and house caught fire about the same time. It seemed as if everything was about to be consumed by the devouring element. It was a time of wild excitement, when suddenly the wind changed, blowing the flames from the buildings. Men mounted the buildings and poured water on the parts of the roof on fire. Old carpets were got, saturated with water and spread on the roofs. Men and women worked like beavers, and they finally succeeded in their heroic efforts to stay

the flames. Even the warehouse, which had at one time been abandoned to the flames, was partially, with all its contents, saved. Within a few years, the establishment was again resurrected, and it is to-day one of the most successful and extensive foundries in Medina County.

The Hinckley Lodge, of I. O. O. F., which is "hailed" as Lodge 304, was organized in 1856. The charter was given by the Ohio Grand Lodge, on the 3d of June, 1856. The petitioners for the grant were S. C. Oviatt, Wesley Pope, W. S. Wetmore, William Crooks, William S. Salisbury and A. Severance. The first regular meeting was held on the 4th of July, 1856, and the following board of officers was elected: W. S. Wetmore, N. G.; L. Parker, V. G.; A. Severance, Secretary; G. B. Simmons, Treasurer; M. W. Dunham, Conductor; and William Frost, Warden. After a few years, the society purchased one of the store buildings in the village, and arranged the upper story as a lodge-room. The regular meetings of the lodge are held on Saturday of each week.

A small Methodist society was organized on the "Ridge" as early as 1822. Meetings were then held at private houses, until a few years later, when the people met at the little log schoolhouse that had been erected in the vicinity. Services were conducted by missionaries from the East, and circuit-riders, who came at different times through the settlement. On preaching days, four devoted sisters, Letitia Swift, Mrs. McCreary, Mrs. Chester Conant, and Mrs. David Taman, would come through the woods together, singing hymns, and making them ring with their bright and clear voices. They came dressed in all the simplicity of the times; a plain sun-bonnet or a bandana handkerchief answered the purpose of the fashionable bonnet of to-day. During 1826, a Methodist society was organized by D. L. Conant, near the center, which the "Ridge" people soon joined, and the two together formed one society. Mr. Conant





*Orpha Van Deusen*





was the first preacher of the society, and he was quite frequently assisted by circuit-riders. The meetings were at first held in a little log house that had been erected for a blacksmith-shop, but had been abandoned by the builder. In 1844, a church edifice was constructed a little distance west of the Center, on a piece of land deeded to the society by David Babcock. The church now belongs to the Richfield charge, and contains about sixty active members.

A Congregational church was organized May 5, 1828. According to previous announcement, a number of persons met at the log schoolhouse near the Center, the usual place of holding religious meetings on this date, for the purpose of organizing into a church. There were present the Rev. Simon Woodruff and Israel Shaler, missionaries from Connecticut, and the Rev. Joseph A. Pepon, of the Grand River Presbytery. After prayer, the following persons presented themselves for examination, viz.: James and Mary Porter, Cornelius and Mary Northrop, John and Myra Jones, Bordena Thayer, Temperance Easton, Harriet Carr (by letter), Curtis and Sarah Ball, Thomas Easton, Zilpah Loomis, Jonathan Fish and Samantha Loomis. "These persons having been examined with regard to their experimental acquaintance with religion, and having agreed to the confession of faith and covenant adopted by our churches in the country, and having expressed a willingness to hold fellowship with each other, it was concluded that they be organized into a church. A sermon was then preached by the Rev. Mr. Pepon, after which the above-named persons, having given their public assent to the confession of faith, were declared to be a church, and charged to be faithful. James Porter was appointed Deacon, and Curtis Bullard, Clerk. The meetings were held every other Sunday, in the little blacksmith-shop, already referred to, until in 1838, when a separate church building was erected on a piece of ground deeded to them by Judge Piper. The meetings of this society

were discontinued in 1878, for want of proper support.

A Free-Will Baptist society was organized on the "Ridge" in 1835, by Edward Waldo, Arad Damon and Russell Putman. It remained in effect for a number of years, holding meetings in schoolhouses and private dwellings, but, at the present day, has gone out of existence.

The Hinckley Disciples' Church was organized on the 20th of February, 1870, by Elders Robert Moffet, of Cleveland, a noted evangelist, and H. N. Allen, of Royalton. The Trustees of this society, after its first organization, were George E. Webber, Lewis Finch and John Musser. A large church edifice was erected in 1871, and dedicated in December of the same year by Prof. B. A. Hinsdale, of Hiram. H. N. Allen was Pastor of the church until in 1874, when he was succeeded by H. B. Cox, for one year, and George Musson, for two years. The present officiating Pastor of the church is E. S. Bower, of Hiram. One hundred and nineteen persons have joined the church since its organization.

The first school teacher in Hinckley was Miss Alsina Brooks, of Strongsville Township. She used to walk from Bennett's Corners to the center of Hinckley and teach all day. In one of her walks through the woods, she came across a raccoon, which she killed and brought to the schoolhouse to exhibit to the scholars. The pioneer children came two or three miles through the woods and sat all day on hard slab benches, and then their parents had to scrimp and save to pay the teacher. But the education they received was of the most practical kind, and our humble log schoolhouses turned out men of the best stamp. The following table, on school statistics in Hinckley Township, was prepared by Dr. Wilcox. It will illustrate, in a striking degree, the different phases in the school history, and also the population of the township at different times. The



enumeration of the youths, between the ages of five and twenty-one years, for the years from 1852 to 1880, is as follows: 1852, 620; 1853, 537; 1854, 493; 1855, 494; 1856, 479; 1857, 467; 1858, 491; 1859, 466; 1860, 463; 1861, 455; 1862, 427; 1863, 410; 1864, 394; 1865, 398; 1866, 387; 1867, 353; 1868, 333; 1880, 250. Beginning with 620 in 1852, it ends in 1880 with 250, a decrease of nearly 70 per cent. Again, twice 620 is 1,240, about the actual general population of the township in 1852—twice 250 is 500, which is very nearly one-half of our general population in 1880—in other words, the children have sunk from half of the whole population to a little more than one-fourth. The 370 children, lost in Hinckley in the years mentioned, this being the difference in the school population between 1852 and 1880, would form eight school districts larger than our average districts. Districts that twenty years ago enumerated eighty scholars, have now got down to twenty or less, with an average daily attendance of seven or eight scholars; and the expense of supporting

the small school is as great as the larger one. To enlarge the school districts, necessitates removing the old schoolhouses or building new ones, and sacrificing the old ones, and then many children will be so far from them that they cannot or will not attend, and ignorance will be again on the increase, with all of its inseparable evils. Medina County is capable of supporting, with ease, three times its population. Hinckley is, to-day, divided into eight subdistricts. The following abstract shows the financial condition of the township schools for 1880:

Balance on hand.....	\$1,298 86
State tax.....	351 00
Township tax.....	2,428 46
Irreducible tax school fund.....	22 50
Fines, licenses, etc.....	252 56
Total.....	\$4,353 38
Whole amount paid township.....	\$1,452 75
Amount for sites, buildings, etc.....	506 45
Amount for fuel.....	420 09
Balance on hand.....	\$1,974 09

## CHAPTER XXI.\*

SHARON TOWNSHIP—PHYSICAL FEATURES—EARLY SETTLEMENT—PIONEER INDUSTRIES—GROWTH OF CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS—PERSONAL SKETCHES.

THIS township is situated on the east line of the county. Until 1840, it was an interior township, but at that time four townships were taken from Medina County to help form the county of Summit, which rendered Sharon a border township. It is bounded on the north by Granger, east by Copley, south by Wadsworth, and west by Montville. The center of the township is eight miles southeast of Medina, twelve miles west of Akron, and thirty miles south of Cleveland.

The surface of the township is undulating.

Taking the eastern line for a base, where it is crossed by Wolf Creek, the greatest elevation would be near the south line, west of the Center road, as well as the north part of the town near the same road, and reaching the altitude of 150 feet. The township furnishes as many springs as any on the Western Reserve. Its computed number is 127. The streams that go to make up Wolf Creek, the principal stream in the township, are, first, Spruce Run, which rises on Lot No. 32, runs one mile, fed by springs, and forms a junction with the creek fifty rods west of the town line. Minor streams feed the west

\*Contributed by George A. Root.





side until it receives the waters of Stone Brook, which rises on Lot No. 15, and runs one mile southwest and empties in the East Branch of Wolf Creek. This East Branch receives a slight start from a swamp in Granger Township, but gets its constant flow from springs south of the north line. Starting from the junction of the two streams called the East and West Branches of Wolf Creek, which occurs on Lot 52, we find the West Branch receives its largest feeder from Jones' Brook, which rises in Wadsworth, runs three miles north to the main stream. The next is the Young or Case Brook, rising on Lot 66 and running northeast. The third is a small stream starting at the paint mines. Another feeder to the West Branch is the Warner Brook, which rises on Lot 78, runs two miles north and empties. This main or West Branch, like its eastern brother, takes its rise in Granger. Yellow Creek rises in Sharon, runs one and a half miles southeast to the township of Copley, thence to the Cuyahoga River. On the west town line there is a tributary of Rocky River, which rises on Lot 21. This, with Yellow Creek, contributes to the waters of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The other streams mentioned, together with Paint Creek, in the southwest part of the town, flow into the Tuscarawas River, which helps to swell the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers, and thence to the Gulf of Mexico. Thus there are several buildings in Sharon, whose roofs contribute to both of the great gulfs of North America. Sharon is drained by its natural formation, in the immediate rise of the land from the numerous creeks to the different table lands. Drainage was provided when the waters receded from this continent.

Sharon shares with Montville in a swamp of seventy-five acres, which was called by the early settlers the Bear Swamp.

She soil of Sharon is varied. The western half is blue clay mixed with small particles of shale, which changes as we go eastward to sand and gravel, mixed with petrified shell of ancient

deposit. As we approach the east line of the township, there is a greater proportion of sand, with occasional gravelly knolls. The valleys are a compound, sand prevailing. Vegetable decomposition is about 33 per cent of its composition. The valleys embrace one-fourth of the tillable land. The timber is variable; principally beech in the northwest quarter. The middle tier of lots, north and south, were once celebrated for choice sawing timber. Yellow white-wood, black-walnut, white ash, hard and soft maple, beech and white-oak abounded. The few noble oaks that yet remain are mostly in the east part of the township, and indicate that from four to six feet in diameter was not an uncommon size.

Sharon remains as first surveyed, it being in accordance with the rules adopted at the commencement of the survey of the Western Reserve, unless natural objects prevented. It is five miles square, divided into eighty lots varying in size from one hundred and ninety-eight to two hundred and thirty-six acres, rendering in the aggregate 17,200 acres of land. The center is in  $41^{\circ} 6'$  north latitude. The pursuits of the inhabitants are almost entirely agricultural. The soil is adapted to grain and grazing. From 1835 to 1845, it produced a great quantity of wheat. The fields were then visited by destructive insects to such an extent that farmers turned their attention to sheep-raising. This was continued until 1868, when the produce of sheep fell to nominal prices, and this industry gave place to cheese-factories and dairying, and also to wheat-raising, which latter has proved successful for a number of years past.

The principal village of the township is Sharon Center, located, according to the fashion of the times, at the geographical center. It contains about forty dwellings, two dry goods, grocery and hardware stores, post office, two blacksmith and wagon shops, two shoe shops, grist and saw mill, two churches, hotel, town-hall and





schoolhouse combined, harness-shop, etc. The population numbers 150; the whole township about 1,200. On the north line of the township, near the northeast corner, is the village of Coddingle. This contains a hotel, a grocery, a few dwelling-houses on the Sharon side, and a blacksmith and wagon shop, dwellings, schoolhouse, etc., on the Granger side. Half a mile west is Troy Corners, which contains a store, hotel, dwellings, and the post office known as Smith's Road.

The principal part of Sharon was owned first by the minor heirs of Hart & Mathers, by which name the township was first designated. This was changed, at the suggestion of Peter A. More, to Gask, the name of his native city in Scotland, and was thus known until 1830, when the name was again changed, by act of the Legislature, to that by which it is now known. The name was suggested by the wife of Samuel Hayden, an early settler, in honor of her native town, Sharon, Conn. The formal organization of the township took place in April, 1831. Seventy-five votes were cast, which resulted in the election of Peter A. More, Samuel Hayden and Charles McFarlin, Trustees; Jacob Rudesill, Clerk; Col. Luther Fitch, Treasurer; Jonathan Smith, Justice of the Peace; Mark Smith, Constable. Of the above number, but one survives—Jacob Rudesill. At the election in April, 1832, Amos Ritter, Charles McFarlin and John Boydston were chosen Trustees; David Boydston, Clerk; Luther Fitch, Treasurer.

The lands in Sharon came into market in March, 1829, but there were several squatters as early as 1815. Among these first settlers was one Parmeter, Bridgeman, McConkey, Point, Valland and Green, and, it is supposed, that, as early as 1810, a hunter was living at the forks of Wolf Creek. When the lands were surveyed, in 1827, these squatters, with the exception of David Point and McFarlin, took their departure. They left no available

"Footprints on the sands of time."

David Point was a native of Orange County, N. Y.; came to Portage County, Ohio, in 1810, where he married a daughter of John Dunbar, and moved to what was then called "Hart & Mather," now Sharon, in 1816. He was a tanner and currier by trade, and the settlers found him a valuable acquisition. As cattle were scarce, deer were slain for their hides as well as their meat, and Mr. Point proved a good tanner. One old settler declares he had a pair of boots made from deerskin of his tanning that had worn for twenty years, and thought that they would yet outlast several pairs of modern tanning and manufacture. Mr. Point lived to the age of eighty-four years. His widow still survives, aged eighty-six years, in full possession of all her faculties. Strictly adhering to the injunction of the Bible, there were born to them fourteen children. Uncle David looked with disdain upon modern families, with a few children "whining for sweet-cake and candy." Instead of this, he would say, "Mother, give them children a supper of roasted potatoes and milk; put some leeks on the table so the milk won't taste leeky!"

As the actual settlement of the township did not take place until several years after that of the neighboring townships, the settlers were spared much of the privation usually endured by the pioneers of civilization. They were enabled to obtain supplies from earlier settled neighbors in adjoining towns, and their social customs and domestic manners partook of the character of older communities from the first.

The first child born in the township was a son to Stephen Green and wife, who lived on Lot No. 13, in 1819. The first female was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Point, born in 1818. The first marriage was that of Joseph Willey to Malinda McFarlin, in 1829. They moved to Porter County, Ind., where Willey died in 1856. The first death was that of a child of David Point, in 1822. As there was



no graveyard in Sharon at that time, the burial took place in Granger, near Coddingtonville. A few settlers assembled to console the afflicted parents. The ceremony consisted of a hymn sung and a short petition to God for consolation to those called to mourn.

The necessity of education was recognized by the early settlers in a school meeting held early in the fall of 1822. Among those who thus met were David Point, Abram Valland, Lyman Green and Charles McFarlin. At this meeting, it was resolved to build a schoolhouse, and the site selected was that upon which Link's Tavern now stands. An objection was made to this, however, from the fact that an Indian squaw had been buried there a few years before, and that her spirit had been seen and heard, and the following is what she is supposed to have said: "Brothers, I do not want the place where my bones lie disturbed. My braves tell me this is theirs by inheritance. There was a time when our forefathers owned all this land; now you envy me one small spot. Your forefathers came across the great plains and the Cuyahoga and landed on this our hunting-ground. When they came across the great waters, their number was small. They found friends and not enemies. They told us they had fled from their own country for fear of wicked men, and had come here to enjoy their religion. They asked for a small seat. We took pity on them and gave them corn and meat. They gave us poison (whisky) in return.

" 'Why is my sleep disturbed?  
Who is it calls the dead? ' "

The old squaw's grave did not prevent them from building on the place. Tradition says it was better than the majority of schoolhouses at that time. It had a floor made of split chestnut logs, and benches of the same material, similar to extended milking-stools. Here sat the juvenile lords and ladies of the past, some of whom were endowed with faculties to

do honor to the farmer's station, while others stood at the head of their profession, and, in the halls of their native State, stood foremost to beat back the inroads of class legislation. The pedagogue who had the honor of teaching the first school in Sharon was David Holmes. His throne was an elm-bottomed chair. Perched therein, and equipped with a good ferule and plenty of blue-beech "gads," the monarch reigned. The roll of scholars thus assembled in the first school taught in Sharon, in 1822, reached the number of twenty-four. A few of these lived in Granger, but this township furnished the great majority. Their names were William, Polly, Rhoda and Sally Valland, John Orville, Esther, Moses, Reuben, Mervina, Almira and Wilson McFarlin, Jane, Betsy and Marilla Point, Lyman, Orpha, Dexter and Ase-nath Green, Myron C., Chester and Tracy Hills. Mr. Holmes married a Miss Coddington, of Granger, and removed to Michigan. He died in Concord, Jackson County, in that State, in 1837.

No other schools were commenced in the township until 1832. In the meantime, the town had become well settled, nearly all of the lots having been sold. This gave rise to the establishment of the second school, which was located at the center, in a building recently erected for the double purpose of a school and town house. The people could find no authority in law for levying a tax to build a house of that character, and so the enterprise had been carried out by subscription. This building was a small wooden structure, ceiled within, and supplied with a desk and seat extending along three sides. The scholars were thus seated with their faces to the wall, and their backs to the teacher. The first school taught in this house was in the summer of 1832, Elizabeth Hayden, teacher. The winter term of that year was presided over by Dr. Ormsby, followed, the next summer, by Julia Hayden. The other school districts of the township, were formed





during the next five years, and were speedily supplied with scholars, one in 1840, enumerating 117.

The ruling spirits at the center of the town were generally New Englanders, fully alive to the importance of education, and early conceived the idea of a higher school. To this end, a charter was obtained in 1836, for the erection of an academy, which was accomplished during that year. This building also served a double purpose, the first floor being used for school purposes, while the upper room was occupied by the Universalist Society as a church. The first seven years of the existence of the academy, was mainly under the direction of John McGregor, a very successful teacher, and under whose supervision the school acquired a widespread reputation. Mr. McGregor was a native of Scotland, and had there become quite a prominent politician, but for the expression of some radical sentiment, he had left old Scotia, and came to Vermont in 1829. Through the intervention of Mrs. Caroline Gibbs, he came with his family to Sharon, and took charge of the academy during the winter of 1836-37. In the spring, he was induced to go to Wadsworth to start a school there. Under his directions, the octagonal building in that village was erected and used by him for two years, when he returned to Sharon and taught five years. His first residence in Sharon was in a log house near the residence of the late Mrs. Graves, one mile north of the Center. He bought a farm on Lot 39, two miles west of the Center, on which he lived a short time. He moved to Wadsworth finally, in 1842, settling on a farm on the diagonal road, near Wilson's Corners. His death took place in 1847, from the bursting of a blood-vessel. He was of an eccentric turn of mind, and zealous in any subject he took hold of.

Rev. Alvin Dinsmore, Universalist, succeeded McGregor as teacher in the academy. He also served as Pastor of the society that assembled

to worship in the same building. He was a very studious man, and under his administration, the school flourished greatly. Many students from abroad were in attendance, and classes were formed in the higher mathematics, philosophy, chemistry, languages, etc. His favorite method of punishment of the smaller scholars, was by ducking in the spring at the bottom of the hill, near the academy. He was an extensive reader of history, and appeared to live more in the society of past ages than in the present. This made him seem to be absent-minded, but he was never neglectful of duty. He removed from here to Naperville, Ill., in 1856, but now resides in DeWitt, Iowa.

E. W. Reynolds, a graduate of Western Reserve College, and, perhaps, the most accomplished scholar that ever taught in Sharon, was the next Principal of the academy. The previous interest in this school was fully sustained under him, and many students from abroad came here for instruction. Mr. Reynolds married, while living in Sharon, a daughter of Abel Dickenson, of Wadsworth. His courtship and marriage had been conducted so secretly that the family in which he boarded (Col. Barron's) had no suspicion of the true state of affairs until one morning, while they were at the breakfast table, Mr. Dickenson suddenly came into the room somewhat intoxicated, exclaiming, "Mr Reynolds, you can have my horse and buggy to take your wife to Akron to-day." A thunder-clap would not have produced more astonishment in the family than thus to have learned so suddenly that their supposed bachelor boarder was really a Benedick. Mr. Reynolds removed to Cassopolis, Mich., from which place he was elected to the Legislature of that State. An accidental fall from a wagon terminated his life about the year 1860.

The affairs of the academy thus ebbed and flowed until 1851, when the old building was sold to make room for a church the Universalists had resolved to build. Another building



was fitted up for a high school, just east of the new church, and in this labored for two years, as teachers, Mr. Aldrich and George Rudesill, respectively. The Presbyterian Church had by this time become disused, and was purchased and fitted up for a high school by Isaac R. Henry, and by him used for a few terms. He was succeeded by others, among whom may be mentioned H. H. Mack, W. H. Williams and A. L. Barnard. The number of scholars under the latter's tuition rose as high as one hundred and twelve. After this, the school declined, and the old house was finally sold, and went to help build up a neighboring village.

After the old house went away, there was a lull in high-school interests, but a few embers were still alive, and the townspeople were persuaded to build a house on a plan to serve in a three-fold capacity, so, with school tax, township tax and private subscription, the present house was erected for township, high and common school purposes. The character of the schools throughout the township, however, is not as good as it was in the early days.

The Methodist Church in Sharon was organized in 1832, with James Wilson, Pastor, in charge. The persons that composed the first class in that church were Valentine Waltman (Class-leader), Achsah Waltman, Keziah Waltman, Charles, Irena and Almira McFarlin, George, Susan and Polly Lowerman, Rebecca Smith, Harriet Skinner and Martha More. The church increased in numbers, so that, in 1842, they were enabled to build their present house of worship. The building committee was composed of William Graves and Valentine Waltman. Like the schools, this society has ebbed and flowed until the present year, when their number is double what it was at its first organization.

A Presbyterian Church was started in 1833, and served by occasional preachers of that school, until Rev. William Johnson was sent as a permanent Pastor, by an Eastern society in

Connecticut. He was paid \$100 a year by the society, the rest of his salary being made up by his scattered parishioners. The church was continued until 1846, when it commenced to decline in numbers, by deaths, removals, and, perhaps, a type of theology better suited to the tastes of the people.

As early as 1830 or 1831, there were elements at work among the people, that indicated that a more liberal association might be collected. Those of such views, compared notes, and found enough strength to put up a building for church and school purposes. This was the formation of the Universalist Society of Sharon. The building was erected in 1836. The first preacher was a Mr. Hull, of New England extraction. He continued their speaker for three years, and was succeeded by occasional preachers, until the arrival of Rev. Alvin Dinsmore, about the year 1840, who continued to sojourn in Sharon for nearly twenty-five years, preaching and teaching. In 1869, this society sold a half-interest in their church building, to the Lutherans, who now occupy it alternately with them. There are two other churches in the township, one of which, Lutheran, is situated two miles southwest of the Center, and the other in the southeast part of the township. The latter belongs to the United Brethren, and is known as Mount Zwingli Church. Both of these churches have cemeteries attached.

The first mercantile establishment was started at the Center in 1833. It was situated on the southeast corner of the public square. It was soon bought out by W. Woolley, and sold by him to Jehial Jaquith. Amos Ritter, from Pennsylvania, started a store on the present site of the Universalist Church, in 1836. He formed a partnership with Isaac and Israel Beach, but the firm soon broke up, and Ritter removed to Brunswick. The next store opened was by the firm of Patchen & Bentley, which was of short continuance. Allen Howes then





entered on a mercantile career, and was, perhaps, the most successful trader that ever operated in town. He ran an ashery, operated by Jacob Fulmer, had an interest in the harness shop, dealt in lumber and building, and did more than any other man in town, to enliven business generally. He was the subject of very serious domestic difficulties, brought about by the inconstancy of his first wife, who finally left him. He afterward married Miss Abby Warner, and removed to Chicago, to engage in trade. He has been succeeded in the mercantile line in Sharon, by a long line of merchants, among whom may be mentioned Farr, Chandler, Phinney, Chatfield, Rudesill, Barron and many others.

The first mechanical business started in Sharon was a tannery, by James Hall, just south of the Center, in 1831. He worked a year, and left, and was succeeded by John H. Rice, who started a tannery on the present site of Bowes' mill, in 1835. He did considerable business at tanning, and also, at one time, carrying on the business of shoemaking, Col. Barron working for him in that capacity. Mr. Rice removed to Wisconsin in 1857, in which State his son, Dr. Rice, had achieved distinction as a doctor and politician.

In 1835, James Hazen had a blacksmith-shop at Troy Corners. His shop was built of hickory logs, and, although it had a door, the logs were so far apart that all of the smaller animals were permitted to enter, children included. He was one of the best workmen of that time. Thomas Bender was the blacksmith at the Center in 1846. His insane wife for a long time was the terror of the older people, but a great favorite with the children. They emigrated to Iowa.

Among the early carpenters and joiners were John Burge (also botanical physician), Isaac Beach, Thomas King, Barton Green and William Chapman. Some of their wooden monuments are still standing, in the form of the old

academy building, now a wagon-shop; the old hotel, so long the residence of Mrs. Gibbs; and a few other buildings throughout the township. All of the above are passed away. Mr. Green died in Cleveland, and King in Washington County, Wis.

Until 1833, the people in the south part of town received their mail at Wadsworth Post Office, and those north of the Center, at Granger. In July of that year, a route was established between those points for a weekly mail. This was done on condition that the mail should be carried for what the Sharon Center office would bring in. C. McFarlin took the job for 45 cents per trip—a distance of eighteen miles. The office did not pay the first quarter, but did afterward. Luther Fitch, who enjoyed the two apparently contradictory titles of Colonel and Deacon, was appointed the first Postmaster, in 1833.

Horace Gibbs was Sharon's first cabinet-maker. He made chairs, tables and coffins—the latter at “\$1 a foot.” He had a turning-lathe, on a spring brook, near the residence of Valentine Waltman, where he got out his round stuff. He afterward located his shop at the Center. He was elected Justice of the Peace, which office he held for many years. He married a daughter of John McGregor; moved from Sharon to Medina, where he kept a grocery for a year or two, then moved to Michigan. He afterward went to Kansas, where he died in 1874.

A. B. Root came to Sharon and started a harness-shop in 1842. He has worked continuously at this business ever since. For many years, Mr. Root devoted the evenings to teaching vocal music in the different parts of Sharon and neighboring townships. He was the pioneer organist for the churches, and owned the first instrument of that kind ever brought to town. He has raised a family of eight children, no death having occurred in the family except that of Mrs. Root, in 1872. He came to Ohio from Malone, Franklin Co., N. Y.





The first hotel in Sharon was erected by Milo and Horace Gibbs, in 1835, and kept by them until 1845.

Oliver Ingham came to Sharon in 1834, and put up a shop in which to build fanning-mills. He, together with his father, Judge Oliver Ingham, lived in a dwelling that now forms a part of the Sharon Hotel. Judge Ingham resided in Sharon until 1852, when he went to Montville to pass the remainder of his days with his son, who had preceded him to that township. He died in 1869, aged eighty-five years. He represented his native district in Vermont, in her legislative halls, for a number of years. He was of the old-school politicians; believed in the infallibility of the Democratic party, and heartily hated the Abolitionists.

There have been erected nine water, saw and grist mills in the township. The first was by J. A. Davis, on Lot 26. This was continued in operation twelve years. The next mill was built by Col. Fitch, near the present residence of William Hopkins, in 1836. The Colonel soon tired of milling, owing to the trouble of keeping his dam in order, and sold out to Myron C. Hills. The mill afterward passed successively into the possession of Joseph Brittain and William Hopkins. The third was built by Millard Wadsworth, on the south branch of Wolf Creek, but did not do much business, and soon left town. He had a log house on the present site of the cemetery. Edward Chandler built a mill on the creek, one mile south of the Center, in 1837. He refused to saw for the usual price, viz., half the lumber, but only for cash, \$2.50 to \$3 per thousand. The fifth mill was erected on Lot No. 67. The sixth, on the falls, near the residence of Philip Young. Another mill was erected at Spruce Run, about 1850, and one on the East Branch of Wolf Creek, in 1833, by Thomas Smith. Jacob Wade built a grist-mill in 1832, on Spruce Run, two miles east of the center, with an 18-foot over-shot wheel. He soon sold out to David Andrews,

who ran it for many years. It is still in operation, with steam water and power, as a grist and saw mill. The first steam-mill in town was erected in 1839, by Joseph and Andrew Brown, who afterward sold it to W. Woolley. The next steam-mill was built by Richard Warner in 1852. Other steam-mills have been put up by D. Grill and the Bowes Brothers. The reason of so many mills having been erected in Sharon is from the fact of its excellent early water-power, and its having contained within its borders at least 10,000 acres of sawing timber. Probably half of this timber was destroyed by fire simply to get rid of it. Some of the old settlers bewail the labor they once underwent to burn up immense black walnut trees, which now would be worth more than the present value of their farms. However much credit they were entitled to for clearing up the land, the reflection comes that they rather overdid the matter.

A distillery was started in September, 1830, on a small scale, in the east part of town, by Samuel Arnold. His grinding was done at Wellhouse's mill, in Copley, and in Wadsworth.

The early settlers had very indifferent farming tools. The "bull plow" was made from a twisting beech or oak stick for a mold-board, with strips of band-iron to keep it from wearing. The handle was straight, and terminated with an inserted pin or a cow's horn. A rough triangular drag, furnished with nine one-and-a-half-inch-square iron teeth, was used. Corn-planting was done by striking the corner of the hoe, or sometimes an old ax, in between the roots of the trees and dropping the seed into the incision. After the corn was up, the cultivation consisted of hacking up the fire-weeds with a hoe.

The Cleveland road, running north and south through the township, a mile east of the Center, was cut through in 1829. This work was enlivened by quite a number of adventures with bears, a large one being killed with an ax,



by some of the Wadsworth company, on the present site of the residence of George A. Shook. The north-and-south center road was cut through, and partially cleared, from 1829 to 1832. The east-and-west center road was chopped through west of the Center in 1832, but was found to be impassable on account of swamps, and the old style of log-and-rail roads had to be resorted to. The bridges were made by using the largest logs for abutments, with stringers long enough to span the chasm, covered with poles or puncheons.

In 1834, Jehiel Squire, John Nesmith, Sr., Leavitt Weeks and William Eyles laid out the road running from the Center east. They commenced to angle just east of the Center, on account of natural obstructions on the center line, and formed a junction with the Copley west-center road one and a half miles west of Copley Center. The survey was continued to that place, the distance being found to be five miles and thirty-nine rods. The other roads were laid out later, as the needs of the settlers required.

The winter of 1832-33 was very severe, snow remaining on the ground until the last of March. Great numbers of wild hogs perished in the rocks. Some two hundred were counted in two places. These animals, about the year 1829, were the most dangerous enemy the early settler had to contend with, and many stories of personal encounter are related. John Clermont, working for Amos Ritter, was treed near where Charles Wall now lives. He was surrounded by scores of these ferocious beasts, and had to remain on his perch nearly half a day. He had a gun, but the hogs were too numerous to destroy, or be driven away, by shooting. Mr. Andrews, the elder, while hunting near Spruce Run, was driven into a tree-top to save himself from wild hogs. The great hunter of Sharon was William Douglas. He came to the township in 1830, with the Joneses, from Sugar Creek, Stark Co., and the stories of his exploits in

hunting bears, deer and bees, have been favorite themes in the township ever since. Half the farms in this region have been scenes of his encounters with wild animals, or of thrilling adventures in climbing large trees for bees and honey. He was the acknowledged champion in all athletic games, especially jumping, even after he had become an old man. He reared a large family, and, in 1850, moved to Wood County. His last visit to Sharon was in the spring of 1880, when he related the following story: After he was seventy-five years old, he climbed a bee-tree in Wood County, and, at the height of sixty-five feet, stood on a limb to cut it off. He lost his balance in this operation, and, to save himself from falling, had to jump for the top of a neighboring elm-tree, which he reached in safety. He used to wonder who would raise bread for the next "generation," as mankind were getting "wiser and weaker," but that was before the age of reaping machines.

Some remains of the Mound Builders are found on Lot 47. One, quite prominent, was evidently a receptacle for the dead, long prior to the Indians that were here when the continent was discovered by white men.

On Lot 32, is a gorge in the rocks, through which Spruce Creek runs. The west side is sixty-five feet in height. About sixty feet below the gorge, on the right bank, is "Table Rock." This has been detached from the main rock, and is 40x60 feet in area, and thirty feet thick. It is reached by means of a rude bridge, and has always been a favorite resort for picnic and pleasure parties.

The township has afforded a great quantity of bog ore. It is in great abundance on Lots 75 and 76. Coal has been mined to a considerable extent in this township, although the main fields extend beyond the township lines, southeast, into Norton and Wadsworth. The nearest coal to Cleveland, geographically, is in Sharon.

There is an inexhaustible bed of mineral





paint in the south part of the township, on Lots 65 and 71. Its value as a paint was first discovered by William Blake, in 1844, since which time hundreds of tons have been shipped to the seaboard. Mr. Blake realized a large fortune in this article.

The only secret societies ever organized in the township were the Sons of Temperance, in 1847, and the Good Templars, in 1853.

Col. Norman Curtis came from Wadsworth, and settled in Sharon in 1833. He occupied a farm adjoining the Center on the south, and was one of the most influential and respected men of the township. He was Clerk of the township for many years, and a leader in all educational and moral movements. His son, Loyal Curtis, died while serving as Warden of the insane asylum at Columbus, and George Curtis, another son, a prominent druggist of Janesville, Wis., died a few years ago in the latter city. The Colonel left Sharon in 1858, for Rockford, Ill., where he still lives (1880), at the advanced age of eighty-eight years.

Mrs. Caroline Gibbs was a prominent personage in the settlement of Sharon. She came from Vermont in 1833, with her husband, Milo Gibbs. In consequence of some domestic trouble, he left her, and she carried on the battle of life alone; she was a leader in all matters of a political or public nature, and did her full share in developing the township; she personally helped to clear off the public square; doffing the dress of the parlor and putting on garments suited to the work, she grappled with the logs and stumps of the new clearing; she was a great reader and well versed in history and politics; she was a Democrat in her proclivities; she removed to Michigan in 1873, and died there in June, 1880, aged ninety-eight years. Her native State was Connecticut.

The north mile-and-a-quarter road was settled by English people who came from Yorkshire, England, in 1832 and 1833. Their names were William Woodward and son John, John and

Metcalf Bell, William Waters, George Cottingham and Brunskeil, and James Pratt. Coming from a mining country, they were unaccustomed to farming, but soon adapted themselves to the necessities of their surroundings. Hard work was the lot for thirty years, of all, except two, who were killed by falling timber. They left fine farms and a goodly number of children.

Jacob and Adam Kuder came from Lancaster County, Penn., in 1834, and bought farms on Lots 23 and 14. They were men celebrated for fair dealing, and did much in the settlement of the township.

Among the earliest settlers on the Cleveland road was a family of four brothers, Wilson, John, Joseph and — Lytle. They came from Huntington, Luzerne Co., Penn. Of the four, but one, Wilson Lytle, long survived. He cleared up a farm, and reared a family of sixteen children, a large part of whom are yet residents of Sharon. He died in 1873.

James Reed came to Medina County in 1819; settled in Sharon in 1831, on the farm more lately owned by the late R. W. Mills. He also reared a large family of children, some of whom are still resident here. Mr. Reed is yet living.

Capt. Barnabas Crane came to Sharon in 1833. His children consisted of five sons and three daughters. He bought land on the North Center road that had been settled by the Smith brothers. Four of his sons took farms along that road. Their names were Barnabas, Jr., Joseph, George W. and William A. These men have been among the most influential citizens of Sharon. None are now living except George W. Crane. The fate of Joseph Crane and his wife, who were both drowned in Skaneateles Lake, N. Y., at the same time, marked the most tragical and painful incident in the history of the township. William A. Crane removed to Minnesota, where he died. Capt. Crane died in 1856, aged eighty-three years.

Jehiel Squire, the oldest person now living in Sharon, was born in Litchfield, Conn.,



May 1, 1793. When a young man, he removed to New Jersey, remaining there four years. He came to Ohio in 1820; moved into Wadsworth in 1827, where he taught school and worked at farming until he came to Sharon in 1832. He took an active part in the development of this township, assisting in the surveys, laying out roads, building schoolhouses and churches, and was one of the originators of the Sharon Library and Academy. He moved to Akron in 1842, and returned in 1867.

Samuel Hayden, a true pioneer, was from Litchfield, and his wife from Sharon, Conn. They came to Canfield, Ohio, in 1801, where they were married in 1802. During the war of 1812, they moved to Springfield, Summit Co., and back again to Canfield. From there they came to Wadsworth in 1816, being among the earliest settlers of that township. They came to Sharon in 1830, and bought 200 acres of land one mile south of the Center, for \$3.25 per acre.

He sold it four years afterward for \$10 per acre, and purchased the land now owned by his son Hiram Hayden. His family consisted of his wife and seven children, three of whom are yet living in Sharon.

Among the other pioneers and early settlers to whom Sharon is indebted for much of her prosperity and development as a township, may be mentioned the names of Chatfield, father and sons, Edward and M. A. Chandler, Peter and Richard Amerman, S. W. Beech, Cyrus E. French, David Dyer, E. B. Bentley, David Loutzenhizer, Jacob Fulmer, Daniel and Abiel Briggs, Charles and Isaac Wall, Joshua Hartman, Samuel Carr, John Turner and sons, and many others. They came into a wilderness to make for themselves homes, and by hard work and deprivations they succeeded. And what a glorious heritage they have left for succeeding generations! Truly, "they builded better than they knew."

## CHAPTER XXII.\*

GRANGER TOWNSHIP—ITS CONFIGURATION—A LAND PURCHASE—HUNTING ADVENTURES—THE "BABES IN THE WOODS"—THE REMSON TRACT—CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS.

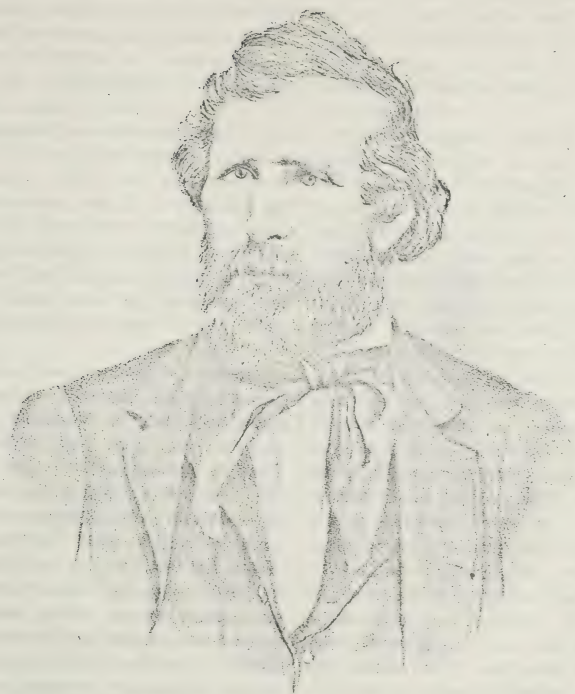
GRANGER is one of the first settled townships in Medina County. Its territory, for several years previous to the first permanent settlements that were made in this region, formed part of the "stamping" ground of adventurous hunters who roamed through Northern Ohio in the beginning of the century. Several squatters located in Granger Township prior to the year 1815, but they did not remain long, and their names have escaped the memory of the people who came into this country soon after.

Under the Land Company's survey, Granger was set apart as Township 3, Range 13. For several years, it was attached to Bath Township, which now belongs to Summit County,

until it became a distinct and separate civil organization in 1820. In natural beauty, Granger surpasses any of its sister townships by the variety of its surface. At the spring seasons of the year, the scenic effects of the hills and mountain knolls in the eastern part of the township are exceedingly attractive and pleasant to the eye. Several of the knolls attain an elevation of over a hundred feet. On one of the elevations, a half-mile east of Grangerburg, formerly stood an ancient fort. It is now almost entirely obliterated, and only an indistinct remnant of the original fortification. It once consisted of a circular trench, with embankment, and was perhaps ten rods across, the northern extremity being now cut off by

\*Contributed by Charles Neill.





Isaac Hatt





a public road. A perpetual spring fed a small stream which flowed along the base of the wall. The origin of the fort is entirely shrouded in mystery, and there is nothing to indicate who were its builders and for what purpose it served. It was probably constructed by some aboriginal tribes, as its location and construction do not contain the military advantages that are sought after in modern warfare.

The conglomerate underlies nearly all of the township, as it lies in the easterly range of Medina County. There are several abrupt ledges in the central part of the township, and several quarries have been opened in these parts. Along the western line of the township, on the farm of Hoel Hatch, is a layer of sand rock, which comes near the surface, and is doubtless referable to the upper layers of Cuyahoga shale.

The surface of the township is divided by a stretch of marsh or swamp land, extending from east to northwest for about five miles, varying in width from fifty rods to three-quarters of a mile. Its composition is mostly what is known as "muck" and peat. The waters of several springs gather into these low lands. An artificial ditch extends for some length through the "swamp," and the surplus water is carried into the little stream known as Remson's Brook, which courses through the northwest corner of the township and empties into Rocky River, near Weymouth, in Medina Township. A complete, oval-shaped mound, measuring over three hundred feet in circumference and attaining a height of over fifteen feet, is found near the center of a meadow on the farm of Franklin Sylvester, one mile north of Grangerburg. The owner has put a solid stone wall in its sides, and inclosed the elevated surface with an iron fence, and set the mound apart as a family burial ground. A shaft of blue Quincy granite, twenty feet in height, stands in the center of this remarkable elevation of ground. The knoll was probably

thrown up by a tribe of Indians, for burial purposes, according to their custom, at some remote day. The geographical boundaries of Granger Township are marked on the east by Summit County, on the south by Sharon, on the west by Medina, and on the north by Hinckley Townships. Its area, like that of all the townships of Medina County, embraces twenty-five square miles.

William Coggsell and his uncle, Gibson Gates, were perhaps the first white men who trod upon the soil of Granger Township. The former has become famous in the pioneer history of Medina County; and, in these early years, he, being then quite a young man, was known as one of the most intrepid and successful hunters in all the regions about. The two hunters, who were then living in Bath, put up a little cabin on a spot known as Porter's Pinnacle, in the eastern part of Granger, in the winter of 1810, and, in their hunting excursions through the regions west, would stop here for days at a time. From the memoirs prepared by Mr. William Coggsell, who died in Granger on the 28th of February, 1872, we take the following sketches relating to the early settlements. The first is a history of his ancestors:

"William Coggsell, my great-great-grandfather, was born in Ipswich, England, sixty-two miles northeast of London. He was well educated in navigation. In 1666, he became the owner of a vessel, and, taking in a company, he sailed for America, landing at Boston Harbor. He remained for a number of weeks, and accompanied part of his passengers into the interior to look for a location. When the ground had been selected, it was named Ipswich, after the ship Captain's native place and the name of his vessel. After making several voyages to and from England, he finally settled in Ipswich, in Massachusetts. Edward, his son, was born April 17, 1685, and died April 17, 1773. Samuel, son of Edward, was born March 1, 1710, and died April 11, 1775. William, son of Sam-



uel, and my father, was born November 2, 1748, he died in Granger May 12, 1838. Although my father had been deprived of a regular school education, he made mathematics his choice study, and, by continued application in that branch, became quite famous as an almanac compiler in early life. When near life's close, he gave directions as to his burial, requesting Jehial Porter to preach his funeral sermon from the text 'Blessed are they who die in the Lord,' selected the hymn that he wished to be sung, and uttered the following words: 'I am nearly eighty years old, was never at 50 cents' expense for a doctor bill, never lost by sickness a meal in sixty years, but lost a great many meals on account of having nothing to eat.' My mother was a daughter of Lieutenant Gibson Gates, who served during the Revolutionary war. She was born in Canterbury, Conn., in 1772, and, during life, passed through many trying scenes and privations. Among these scenes was the bloody massacre at Fort Wyoming, of which she was one of the survivors. She there witnessed the barbaric spectacle of prisoners sacrificed at the stake. One poor fellow had his body and limbs filled with dry splinters, was then fastened to a tree and burned to death. Another had a portion of his bowels, after his body had been opened with a knife, fastened to a sapling and was then forced to pass around the tree until his bowels had been torn out, and he fell exhausted and dead on the ground. My mother, in fearful anxiety for the lives of her two young children, and to keep them from the gaze of the red devils, was crouching on the ground praying and weeping. An Indian approached her brandishing his bloody tomahawk. To divert his attention from his bloody purpose, she offered him some bread and beef. The offer had the desired effect. The savage asked where her papooses were; she pointed to where they were hid. The Indian ordered her to take them to a certain corner in the fort and sit down. She did so, and while there thanked

God for her deliverance, and of those with her, and devoutly prayed that God would be a protector to her and her children. The prayer was heard and answered. She lived long and happily after witnessing that cruel massacre. She died in Bath at the age of seventy-two, and is there buried. Four of the survivors who witnessed the Wyoming Massacre, after being long separated during life, are buried within four miles of each other, in Bath and Granger.

"I was born February 20, 1794, at the great bend of the Susquehanna, N. Y. In 1797, my father, William, sold and removed from New York to Alleghany County, Penn., near Redstone Fort. In 1801, he became the owner of 200 acres of land in Beaver County, Penn., by virtue of a soldier's right. In April, 1802, he moved there. Provisions were then scarce and costly. Often he was forced to leave home and work for means to supply his family. Once, when leaving, my mother made the inquiry, what she should do if provisions were exhausted before his return? He said: 'There is a half-barrel of bran, sift it and make bread of it; when that is gone, go to the potato patch, and dig out the old potatoes, without disturbing the roots, boil them and use them with milk; when they are gone, follow the cows in the woods, see what herbs they eat, pick of the same, boil them and eat that with milk.' Having gone forty miles, secured employment, and received his pay in corn, he joyfully returned with his earnings. A tree was cut down, a hole burned in the stump, a spring pole erected, by means of which the corn was pounded and made ready for use, and in that way fed seven in the family. When ten years old, I was, in the absence of my father, compelled to chop and prepare fuel. I had no shoes to wear in the winter season. To keep my feet from freezing, I heated a board at the fire, carried it out, and then stood on it when chopping. When it became cold, I brought it in and heated it again, and in that way made





it answer for shoes and stockings. In progress of time, rights to land were often in dispute. It was discovered that my father was one of the unlucky, and had settled on the wrong piece of land. Though he had made an opening, erected his cabin and settled down, as he supposed, for life, he was forced to give up possession, as another soldier's right claimed the land. Becoming acquainted with Judge Oliver Phelps, then the owner of Granger Township, my father visited that township in 1807, and found it wholly unsettled. Being pleased with the appearance of soil, timber and its other natural advantages, he made a selection of 370 acres in the central part of the township. After he had looked at the land, he returned to Warren, Trumbull County, and contracted with Calvin Austin, agent of Judge Phelps, for the land, and paid the sum asked. Some time thereafter, Phelps became insolvent, his title to lands was seized by creditors and sold. My father, having purchased on contract, was forced to lose what he had paid, and was, for the second time, prevented, through force of circumstances, from being a land-holder. He had not yet removed his family to Ohio, and therefore, after losing his purchase, he continued to reside in Pennsylvania until 1813, when he removed to Columbiana County, Ohio. In 1818, he again came to Granger, bought by article, the lot now owned by J. L. Green, and settled thereon, and for six years struggled through the many hardships incident to first settlers. About the time his article expired, he found himself unable to make payment, owing to want of price for produce. He sold his claim to his sons, William, Samuel and Nathaniel, who continued to reside there and make improvements. In 1824, I became by purchase sole owner; but soon concluded to select another locality, sold my right to land in Granger Township, and moved into Bath.

"I must now make a break in my history, otherwise the pioneer community will cast me

out of their synagogue. In 1810, in company with my uncle Gibson Gates, and Hezekiah Burdick (two of the first settlers in Bath), I left the home of my father, in Pennsylvania, traveled by way of Vannatt's Ford, on the Mahoning River, to the house of Gates, in Bath. I remained there until the August of that year, when, in company with Gates and John Manning, I started for Granger Township. Our course was through Richfield, by way of L. May's place, thence westwardly to Panther Cave, in Hinckley. We visited that cave in search of game, but saw no panthers. From there, we traveled to where an Indian gallows was standing, in the big bend of Rocky River.

"In 1806, a squaw had been hung there, charged with witchcraft. The squaw had said that there would be darkness on the face of the earth in June, which the Indians decided to be undoubted proof of witchcraft. She was hung in May, and on the 13th of June there was an eclipse of the sun. After viewing the gallows, we traveled on southerly, and, at night, encamped under a ledge of rocks in the northern part of Granger. I at that time carved my name on a beech-tree, which can be seen to-day. After feasting on wild turkey for breakfast, we pursued our course and came on to the Smith road, in the neighborhood where the Squaw Tavern now stands. This was my first visit into and through Granger. It was then truly a wilderness; the marks of the pioneers were few. We shortly after returned to Bath.

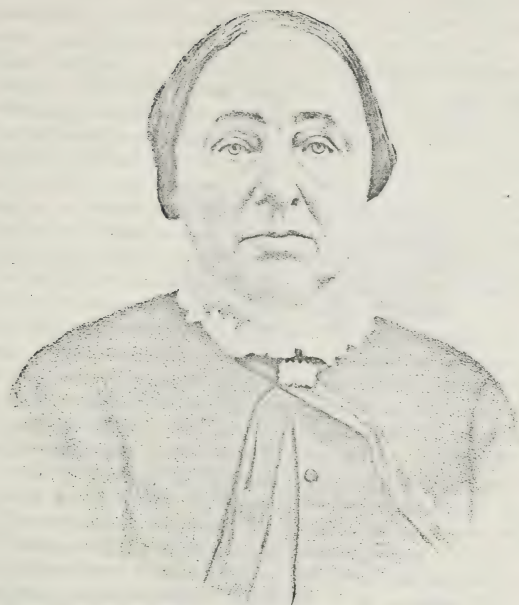
"In January, 1813, the War Department found it necessary to build three small gunboats to be used in annoying the larger vessels of the enemy. It had been discovered by Commodore Perry, that small vessels, being more easily and rapidly managed, could do effective service in close contest. The contract for building the boats was awarded to Brimel Robins, of Allegheny, Penn., who selected 'Old Portage,' on the Cuyahoga River, as the place where to build them. The timber and lumber were



furnished by Capts. Rice and Stowe, and sawed in the mill of Francis and Zenas Kelsey, at 'Old Cuyahoga Village.' Stewart Gaylord was Superintendent of the boat-yard. In June, the three boats were launched, and were respectively named Tripp, Tigress and Portage. I was employed with others to float them down to the lake, with instructions that when we got them to the 'pinery' we should furnish each boat with masts and spars. While floating down the river toward our destination, we descried a tree that had fallen in the river, and, unless removed, would stop the boats. Being then young and full of life, I attacked the log with an ax, and, when nearly ready to float, I lost my balance and fell into the water. It was about fifteen feet deep. With vigorous efforts, my ax in hand, I swam ashore. At the 'pinery,' we were detained several days in procuring the necessary rigging for the boats. At that place, I killed a porcupine, which was looked upon as an animal of great curiosity by our crew. When we got to Cleveland, the gunboats were examined by many, and the general opinion was that they were the kind needed. When at Cleveland, I became very patriotic, and wished to enlist under Commodore Perry; but I decided to go home first, and, after making proper arrangements, to return and become a sailor. My mother, having tested in part the scenes and privations of the Revolutionary war, was opposed to my enlistment, and, with pleadings and rehearsals of war incidents she had witnessed, dampened my ardor, and I finally consented to remain on shore, and not brave the storms of Lake Erie on a small gunboat. In the summer of 1814, I was employed in the salt works at Liverpool, working there until December. When winter had fairly set in, I started for Granger, in company with Daniel Mallet, intending to make hunting our main business for some weeks. We killed large quantities of small game. After some days, we found a long-legged bear in an alder swamp.

When he discovered us, he commenced a retreat. As he passed near me, I fired, but without effect. The two dogs next attacked him, which he seized, and commenced hugging and biting. I reloaded and fired a second time, the ball disabling his foreleg, when he immediately let go of the dogs, and commenced biting his maimed limb. After venting his spleen upon the maimed limb, in despite of dogs, he came toward me in a very menacing manner. I retreated rapidly, but reloaded as I ran, and, when fully prepared, wheeled about and fired. The ball took lodgment in the bear's jaw, causing it to hang downward. At this juncture, Mallet came up to the chase from the opposite side of the swamp, and, taking deliberate aim, put a ball in his brain, and ended the race. The next day, we procured a horse, on which we carried to Liverpool the game we had shot during our hunting excursion. In those days, an ax and rifle constituted my chattel property, and it then seemed to me that I had all that was necessary. After staying at Liverpool for some time to complete a chopping contract, I again started for the residence of my Uncle Gates, near the Cuyahoga. At this early date, there were no lot-lines in Brunswick or Hinckley; therefore, I traveled a course by guess. I had got into the northwest part of Bath when night came on. Wearied and hungry I halted, struck up a fire, peeled some bark with which to make a bed, arranged it in hunter's style, and, drawing my slouch hat over my face, fell into a pleasant sleep. I slept untroubled until morning. When I awoke, I found my bark coverlet beautifully adorned with a covering of snow about three inches in depth. I arose early and left my bed for the accommodation of any one who might need it. I had designed to reach the cabin of Elijah Hale when I left Liverpool; still I was not there. On my way in the morning, I killed two deer. Upon arriving at Mr. Hale's, I informed his wife that I stood in much need of dinner, supper, breakfast and dinner, as





*Saloma Hatch.*





I had not eaten anything since I left Liverpool. She furnished me with eatables to replenish my empty stomach. In going from this cabin to that belonging to his brother Jonathan, a little way further east, I killed a big buck, which I sold to Jonathan for \$2. After remaining with the Hales a short time, I again commenced to ramble from place to place, in search of work and game. In 1815, I had an interview with a bear that to this day causes me to shudder when I think of the hazardous adventure. Isaac Sippey, Dan Willey, William Ben and myself were felling a tree for 'coons,' when the barking of our dogs at a distance signalized that they had found game. When we reached the dogs, we found that they were in close combat with a bear, in the hollow of a large tree. I crawled in the length of my body, caught the hind legs of two dogs, and succeeded in dragging them out. I then crawled in a second time, got hold of the leg of the remaining dog, and, by hard pulling, succeeded in rescuing him from the tight grasp of the bear. The dog died soon after being brought out. Soon, the infuriated bear showed his head at the opening, when a blow from an ax, given by Sippey, nearly severed the snout from the head. The bear drew back, but in a very few minutes again poked out his mutilated head, for which Sippey had been watching. A second stroke buried the ax in bruin's head, who then ceased to draw back. We drew him out, and estimated his weight, after being dressed, at 400 pounds. During this hunting excursion, we killed twenty-nine raccoons, one 'wooly nig,' and this bear.

"In 1816, in company with Sippey, I roamed over portions of Granger, Bath and Hinekey in order to get a supply of honey, hops and cranberries, on which to trade. During our wandering from place to place, we often shot wild game and occasionally a bear. In the fall, the bears were accustomed to visit wild groves where acorns or chestnuts grew, and very often a bullet from the well-aimed rifle of the hunter

caused the bear to fall from oak or chestnut tree on which he had perched himself to feed upon his favorite food.

"In 1818, I became a permanent citizen of Granger. My brother-in-law, Isaac Sippey, and myself, purchased by article the land where C. R. Spencer now lives, on which we paid \$160. That summer, we cleared and planted six acres of corn, and a large patch with potatoes. In the fall of that year, I visited the home of my father, and, after a short stay, he and family removed with me to Granger. My father, Sippey and I cut the first opened road from Cuyahoga to Granger at our own expense, and, while thus employed, we camped out many nights. Our only vegetable food was potatoes, roasted, and eaten with the meat of wild game that we occasionally shot.

"Having lost some of our cattle, Sippey and I concluded to make search for the strayed animals. While passing through the woods, the bark of the old dog gave notice that he had found some kind of game. When we came to the spot, we descried an animal perched high in a tree, that looked to be of the panther tribe. We had no guns with us, and, to dislodge the animal, we must have recourse to a different mode of attack. Upon a nearer approach, we discovered our supposed panther to be a wild-cat of no common size. I proposed to climb the tree and shake the animal off, but was reminded by Sippey that 'pussey's claws were not to be easily shaken off the limb.' I determined to make battle and kill the cat. I cut a club of proper weight, and ascended the tree. When within ten feet of the limb on which 'pussey' squatted, I stopped to take a look at the 'critter.' The green, glaring eyes made me feel uncomfortable, but my position required that I should be courageous. With my left hand, I took firm hold of a limb, and with my right hand I wielded my bludgeon. As I stood watching, the wild-cat made first a few quick shakes with her tail, and instantly bounded



for my face. Instantly I parried off its descent with the club, and sent the animal to the ground. The dog was on hand, and made 'jaw love' to 'pussy.' A hard fight of scratching and biting ensued, until Sippey, with a blow of a club, ended the cat's life.

"During the early settlement, there was a she bear that annoyed the settlement by frequently carrying off hogs, calves and other domestic animals. She was often threatened, and as often pursued. In the winter of 1822, I was hunting in the northwest part of Granger, when I came on her trail, which was known to all hunters by the unusual length of the strides. She was followed by two cubs. I called on Sippey and told him of my discovery, and proposed that we should go in search, and, if possible, bring the lady to terms. The next morning we were early on the trail, intending, if possible, to rid the neighborhood of the old pest. We followed the trail all day, through Hinckley, and, toward evening, discovered dead bees on the snow. We soon found the tree, which we chopped down, and found over a hundred pounds of honey. We scooped out a trough with the ax, and filled it with choice honey-comb, and, night coming on, we encamped there, faring sumptuously on bread (which we always carried with us) and honey. Next morning, we breakfasted early on honey and bread, and then pursued the trail. After pursuing the zigzag tracks for some miles, we came to a large basswood, in which was the bear and her two cubs. Marks about the tree seemed to say that it had been tenanted by the old depredator for years. We concluded we had the 'old gal' in close quarters, and commenced, by sturdy blows, to fell the tree. The tree fell slowly, being impeded by limbs of other trees, of which occurrence the bear took advantage, and made a leap from the tree before it struck the ground. We supposed the 'old sinner' would at least tarry till the tree fell, but she was off at full speed. I fired, but the ball took

no effect. Sippey soon dispatched the two cubs with his ax. The next day, with horses and sled, we hauled home cubs and honey. The next winter, I was hunting in the north part of Granger, and I had killed two turkeys and a deer, and, after traveling about a mile from where I had hung them up, I came across the same thieving old bear. It seemed as though she knew me, but she did not tarry long. I raised my gun and fired. The ball lodged in her hip, and she made off through the woods. As I pursued, I reloaded, and fired a second time, and broke her fore-leg. When the leg was broken, the bear stopped, sat up and bit the maimed limb, and then was off again. I started in pursuit through the southwest part of Hinckley, into Brunswick, then across Plum Creek, then down the creek, then east into Hinckley, and lastly into an alder swamp. She secreted in the mud and water of that swamp, keeping her head up. I went within proper distance, fired and killed her. This chase was about the hardest and longest I ever ran.

"Uncle Gates and I started one day with the intention of taking a little look for game through the woods. When we were near the north line of Bath, we separated, with the understanding that we would meet at another certain point. I had not gone far when I discovered where a 'coon' had come off a large oak-tree, and had turned back and gone up the tree again. I knew if there was an Indian there, he would contrive some way to get the game without the trouble of cutting the tree. I looked about to see how this could be done. There was a large limb on the oak, about sixty feet from the ground, and not far from the tree was a small hickory, which, if felled, would lodge in the limb. I chopped the hickory, it lodged and made, as I supposed, a safe bridge by which I could reach Mr. 'Coon.' But I was mistaken, for, when within ten feet of the limb, I discovered that there was very little of the top of the hickory that was above the limb,





and that it was sliding down further every move I made. This was a perilous situation indeed, and I saw that something decisive must be done. I first thought of retreating, but I soon found that this would be as bad as advancing, as every move I made, brought the hickory farther off the limb. I, therefore, resolved to reach the tree if possible, and, with several desperate grabs, I did so. I now thought I would make things safe, and I took the top twigs that still held the hickory against the oak, and whipped and tied them around the limb of the oak. I soon discovered the retreat of the 'coon,' and, chopping in, I pulled him out and threw him down to my dog. I descended safely, and, by the time I had reached the ground, my uncle Gates came up. I showed him what I had done, and he declared that he would not have undertaken it for all the land on the Cuyahoga River, from Old Portage to Cleveland. I did not undertake it for the value of the 'coon,' but because I thought I would not be outdone by the Indians."

Job Isbell, while passing through the woods one day, in the northern part of the township, with his gun looking for game, caught sight of a bear. He crept cautiously near, and, at some distance, fired at Mr. Bruin. He merely inflicted a wound, and the bear, enraged and growling, advanced toward the hunter. With all the agility at his command, Job reloaded his rifle, but, in his haste, throwing in perhaps treble the amount of powder usually needed. He had his charge made safe and was ready to fire, when the bear was but a few feet from him. He pointed the muzzle of the gun directly at the head of the beast and fired. There was a terrific explosion. He found himself thrown back, and sprawling on the ground. The gun had exploded. When he recovered, he found the bear dead before him, weltering in his own blood. He picked up the pieces of his gun and departed for his home to get help and haul the carcass into the settlement.

In the month of October, 1817, James Ganyard, Elizur Hills, Anthony Lowe and Burt Coddington, four farmers, then located near Bristol, Ontario Co., N. Y., came out to Ohio, in a carriage drawn by two horses, to view the lands of Township 3, Range 13, in the Western Reserve, and, if satisfied with the condition of soil and locality, they would then make a purchase. They remained for several days in the locality, viewing the land and inspecting its natural advantages. They stopped at the cabin of one Ezekiel Mott, who had squatted here several years previous, on the southern line of the township. After being well satisfied of the richness of the land and its adaptability for farming purposes, the four prospectors returned to their homes in New York, and purchased, of Gideon Granger, who was the proprietor, three-fourths of the township, at \$4 per acre. They sold their farms in Ontario County to Mr. Granger, in part payment, and together gave a mortgage bond, amounting to over \$14,000, on the new lands in Ohio. After the agreement had been made, and before the written contract was signed, James Ganyard transferred his right of proprietorship to John Coddington, reserving only to himself so much land as he had paid for. The mortgage given by the purchasers proved of serious difficulty to them in after years. Soon after they had taken possession of the Granger lands, and had commenced making improvements, Congress placed large areas of Government lands, in the counties south of the Reserve, on the market, at less than half the price paid by the Granger settlers. The consequence was that immigration was attracted to these lands, and the Granger people were unable to sell their surplus lands, at even a less price than they had originally paid. In the course of a few years, the mortgages became due. The owners were unable to meet the obligations, and their lands and possessions reverted to the former proprietor. This produced quite a seri-



ous obstacle to the first purchasers in the way of gaining unincumbered farms and securing for themselves the reward that they had so well merited, by their toilsome labor in clearing and opening up these lands.

In the beginning of the month of February, 1818, the first train of emigrants started in ox sleds from Ontario County, N. Y. The party consisted of Elizur L. Hills, with his sisters, Abigail and Marilla; Elizur Wolcott, John Coddling and wife, and one child; Festus and James Ganyard, Seth Dye and wife, Richard Paull and wife, and Seth Paull, with his family of two children. They arrived on the new lands in the middle of March. For the first few days after their arrival, they availed themselves of the proffered hospitalities of the cabin of the "Squatter" Mott, and part of them found quarters at the cabin-home of John Turner, over in Copley Township. The men at once set to work, after having placed the stakes for their new possessions, to build cabins for their own use and commenced clearing land. Several cabins were soon erected, and the work for a new and vigorous colony had commenced.

Another party, consisting of Elizur Hills and wife, with seven children; Anthony Low and family, and Burt Coddling, left their homes in Ontario, N. Y., and joined their friends and children who had preceded them, in the following fall. All these families settled close together, on lands along the Smith road, in the southeast part of the township, in the vicinity of what is now known as Coddlingville. John and Daniel Burt, and James and Festus, all of them young men, came out from Ontario and located in the township, in the southern and central part. The increase in the number of settlers in the township now continued. Nathan Hatch came with his family of five children and settled on the west line of the township, on the 24th day of October, 1818. The month of February following this date brought Benjamin Burt and his mother, who settled with their

sons and brothers, John and Daniel, who had preceded them the fall before. At the same time came Belia Spencer, with his family; the Widow Amanda Isbell, with her child, and James and Amos Isbell, two single young men; James Ganyard, with his wife and two children—two of his sons had already located here the year before—and Mrs. John McCloud, who lived in the Ganyard family, and Hoel Hatch, whose parents had removed into this settlement the year before. He had remained at the old home in Ontario, N. Y., whence all these emigrants had come, on account of breaking his leg a few days previous to the time his parents had started for Ohio.

The young colony now began vigorous efforts to hew out a home in the woods. Cabins were built, land was cleared on every hand, and the same difficulties that settlers in other regions have met, were confronted and overcome. Immense trees covered nearly all of the land—certainly all of what was first opened—and, though this timber was convenient for building their houses and barns, and making rails for their fences, it had to be cleared from the ground to make way for cultivation. First, when upon the ground, a house was made of logs, and covered with thin boards, riven out of oak blocks, and next floored with thick slabs of split oak; this was called a "puncheon" floor. Then came the clearing, which was done by grubbing out the bushes, and cutting off the smaller trees. The trees were deadened, by chopping a girdle of notches through the bark. The ground was then ready to be plowed, as well as the rough state of it would allow, and planted with Indian corn, potatoes and pumpkins. In the fall, the corn was gathered, and wheat sown where it had stood. The next year, more land was cleared and treated in like manner. But, as the cattle and pigs lived in the forest, and boarded themselves there the greater part of the year, substantial fences—the zigzag rail fence—had to be built around each field;





and this fencing cost nearly as much labor as the clearing. Had they not adopted the plan of deadening the trees, it would have been more than the poor pioneer could have compassed to cut the trees down and remove them from the ground. As it was, the trees stood till they dried up, and the branches dropped off and the trunks fell. The rubbish was cleared up and burned each spring, till it was gone. A man and his wife and daughters would gather and burn brush and build fences on a spring clearing, and they would do it with far better spirits than the ladies of to-day often do their shopping. This was part of the life that befell the Granger settlers. But they bravely encountered all the difficulties that came in their way, as the smiling fields and handsome homes of to-day attest.

From a paper prepared by the Hon. Myron A. Hills, one of the first settlers of Medina County, read before the Granger Pioneer Society, we take the following few sketches which relate to the history of the township :

"Believing that a biography, however short, of the first settlers of Granger, with an incident here and there of early times, cannot but be of interest to the present as well as future generations of the men and women who redeemed from a wilderness the Granger of to-day. I shall confine myself in my sketches to those of the pioneers with whom I have been acquainted.

\* \* \* I will first speak of my father, Elizur Hills. He was born in East Windsor, Conn., March 22, 1768. My mother, Abigail Codding, was born October 2, 1772. Of my father's early history, I know but little, save that at nine years of age he lost his father, and in the employ of others he fared hard, and was hard worked. He always loved books and read much. I have heard him say, that, at the age of fourteen, during the war of the Revolution, he was very anxious to stand a draft for the army in place of his brother Norman, who, though older, was not as large, and, thinking that size rather than

age might determine the issue, he stretched himself to his utmost height, but he failed and became very much chagrined. He came at an early day, among the first there, to Ontario County, N. Y., and bought land at 50 cents an acre. He married there in 1792. \* \* \* To show how men become attached to one another, let me state an incident : In the summer of 1824, my father and mother made a visit from here to Bristol, N. Y., and among those whom they went to see was Capt. David Doolittle, who had served in the war of 1812, on the frontier, as a Lieutenant in the Bristol Light Infantry, of which my father had been Commandant. They called at his house, but he had gone out in the woods for a load of wood. A messenger was sent out with the information that Capt. Hills and wife had called to see him. He had partially loaded his wagon, but, not knowing what he was doing, he threw out what wood he had loaded, and hastened back to embrace an old friend. \* \* \* I would like, had I time, to give a description of our first journey from Bristol, N. Y., to Granger. After we had journeyed to Buffalo, which was then a small village, we remained there a week, waiting for the new Walk in the Water, the first steamboat that ever plowed the waters of Lake Erie. We embarked at Black Rock, and, after passing up the lake, we landed at Cleveland, which was then not as large as Grangerburg. The boat anchored a mile from shore, and we were taken on land in a small row-boat. Job R. Isbell, one of our neighbors here now, assisted in the landing. This was the first time that I saw him. He was always cheerful and social, and quite at home where others were afraid and timid. My mother had become sick on the voyage, and she had to be carried ashore on a bed. On the next day after our landing, in the afternoon, my brother Chester, ten years old, Grant Low, nine years and myself eight years, started with Job and Lyman Isbell on foot for the settlement in Granger. After going through the woods for five or





six miles, we boys became very much tired. To cheer us up, Job Isbell proposed that we boys shoot at a mark. We did so, and I think it was the first time we boys had ever fired a gun. It set us up some and gave us new courage. We remained that night near Brecksville, at the house of a Mr. Meach, a little way east of what is now known as Coat's Corners. The next morning we struck through the woods. The first place we came to was the house of old Uncle Farnam, just north of Richfield Center. From there, we passed to Hoadly's Mill, which is now Ghent, and thence across to the Smith road, where Isaac Morse then lived, and from there on to the old homestead in Granger, arriving in the middle of October, 1818. And we were three as tired chaps as ever came into Ohio. I remember well Job Isbell had to keep his brother Lyman in check, that we boys might keep up with them, telling him that we boys were not full-grown Indians, as he was. As we came in sight of Morse's clearing, Grant Low cried. Job told him he must stop, and not go into town bawling. My brother Chester was barefooted."

The new territory was now in a fair way toward colonization. Rapid advances were made in the clearing and cultivation of lands. There were now a dozen or more farms started through the southern and central part of the township, and life among the settlers became quite communal. The manner of life among these people was quite simple, and their habits, socially, as well as their political notions, were exceedingly democratic. From necessity, they supplied themselves with clothing, of all the coarser kind. It was the custom of each farmer to clear a small patch every year for flax, which grew best on the virgin soil. From this, he would obtain all the flax fiber that his family could work up. It was prepared in winter time, and made nearly ready for the spinning by the men and boys, but the women spun and wove it. The linen thus made, furnished com-

fortable shirting, sheeting and outward clothing. The furniture used by these people also was very plain, and a very little sufficed to furnish their cabins. They had nothing to look at; all was used, and used every day; and they were all civilized and pretty fairly cultivated people.

It was a very constant practice with the early settlers to unite their labor for various purposes, and thereby lighten the labor by united strength. Quite generally this was made the occasion of social enjoyment. If a house or a barn was to be raised, there was a gathering of the forces, such as the Yankees call a *bee*, or, as the Pennsylvanians termed it, a *frolic*. One of these barn-raising *bees*, in Granger Township, was attended with very serious consequences and was the cause of death to one of its citizens. The farmers had congregated to help raise a barn on a farm which is occupied by David Sheldon. Among the number was Lyman Isbell. The work progressed finely until it came to lifting up the upper rafters. A heavy log, forty feet in length, was in progress of being pushed on the building. Through want of necessary precaution, one end of the log slipped the pikes used for pushing, and the log rolled down with great force upon the body of Lyman Isbell, crushing his skull and killing him almost instantly. It caused great consternation among the people, but nothing could be done for the injured man. He was placed upon a sled and conveyed to his home, where his sudden and calamitous death brought grief and desolation. A messenger was sent to the Rev. Henry Hudson, who resided in Bath, to come and preach the funeral sermon on the next day. The messenger returned with the minister the next day, and the obsequies took place late in the afternoon. The fatal event cast a gloom over the colony for several days, as Mr. Isbell had been a man highly respected by all.

To keep the record of the township complete,



the personal adventure of three of her fair daughters, at a very early day of the settlement, must be related. They are two adventures of a similar kind, and occurred at a time not very far apart. The first was that of Sally T. Hills and Polly Low. The two young ladies had left the house of Elizur Hills to go to Anthony Low's, about a mile distant. There was then no roadway, nor even a beaten foot-path to show them the way to go; "blazed" trees alone would indicate the direction toward a settlement. Darkness grew upon them, and they finally lost their way. The night was dark; with bewildered minds they walked on irresolutely, and wandered further away from habitation. Their courage did not entirely fail them, and they walked on the whole night, until almost utterly exhausted. When daylight came, they found themselves as completely "at sea" in the wild woods as they had been in the darkness. Fatigued and hungry by their long march, they sank down on the ground and fell to sleep. When they awoke, the sun stood high in the heavens. They started again, but whither, they knew not. They gave out notes of alarm until their voices failed them, but no responsive greeting reached their anxious ears. On they wandered, until the twilight was again gathering. Knowing well that they could not pass another night on foot walking through the woods, they looked about for a lodging-place. A large, hollow tree soon met their eyes. They cleared the vacant space in the bottom of the trunk, of the refuse that had accumulated, and filled it with dry leaves, gathered on the ground, and then took several large sheets of bark and covered the opening in the tree. Into this they crawled to pass the oncoming night. Their hearts had now almost failed them, and they were losing courage. In hapless despair, they endeavored to sleep, but no sleep would quiet their agitated minds. About this time, they heard the report of a gun not far away, and soon another, still nearer. The girls rushed

out and shrieked with all their might. A long-drawn shout came back. The shouting was kept up, a waving light came toward them through the woods, and soon two young pioneers, with guns and a flickering torch, stood by their side. The girls were refreshed with the provisions the pioneer lads had brought with them, and then the homeward journey was commenced. It was midnight before they reached home, as it was about four miles from the nearest settlement where the girls had been found. Great anxiety had been caused in the settlement by the disappearance of the girls. On the second night, all the men and boys had turned out in every direction, with guns and torches and lanterns, to find the missing girls.

A similar event happened to Anna Wolcott (now the wife of Uncle John McCloud) in the summer of 1820. She was then a young girl of eighteen, and served as a domestic in the family of Samuel McCloud. On a Sunday afternoon she started alone through the woods to visit the family of Belia Spencer, several of whose children were sick. The two families lived about two miles apart. The girl lost the direction and wandered off to the north. Night overtook her alone in the woods, not knowing where she was and whither she was going. After wandering about nearly all night, she sank down exhausted by the side of a hill, giving up in despair. The screech of an owl and the rustle of leaves would start her every little while, intensifying the keen anxiety of her mind. Soon daylight brought encouragement, and she started to find her way out of the wilderness. Soon the tingle of bells attached to cattle, which then ran at large through the woods, arrested her ear. She was soon near them, and, with her approach, the cattle leisurely started off. Following close behind them, she soon reached a place of habitation. The cattle had led her home. Her absence had not caused any excitement, as McCloud sup-





posed that she had stopped at Spencer's, and the latter did not know of her intended visit.

Jesse Perkins, a worthy young man, came into the settlement in the fall of 1818, and was taken sick when living at the house of Mr. John Turner, then in Copley, dying there in April, 1819. His remains were taken back to Granger, and were interred on the farm of Anthony Low, near the "Smith road." His was the first grave dug in the township.

Nathaniel and David Goodwin moved with their families into Granger a few years after the first colonization of the township had been made. They had been living near Strongsville, in Cuyahoga County, for some years, when they purchased tracts in the central part of the new township—lands which are now owned by Franklin Sylvester and J. L. Green—and made permanent locations on them. The two young men soon became conspicuous in the affairs of the settlement by their industry and perseverance in cultivating their land and the interest they displayed in all public matters.

Stephen Woodward, who, with his brother, was located at Old Portage, in Portage County, where they together worked a farm, came into the Granger settlement in 1819, and sought the hand of Abigail, oldest daughter of Elizur Hills, in marriage. He gained the consent of the girl and her parents, and the ceremonies took place in November of that year. The young husband took his wife to his home in Portage County. In September of the following year, he died, leaving his young wife a widow. On the 24th of October, just a month after her husband's death, she gave birth to a child, now S. B. Woodward, a prominent lawyer of Medina. The following year she returned to her parents in Granger, and continued to live with them until she died.

The 2d day of August, 1818, proved a very eventful day in the Granger colony. In the forenoon of that day a son was born in the family of Hiram Low, and he was named Ham-

ilton. In the afternoon of the same day, a daughter was born to Nathaniel Goodwin. These were the first births that occurred in the township.

A resort that became quite famous in its way in the early days of the colony was the Burt house or "lodge," which stood on the spot now covered by the attractive residence of Mr. Ozro Burt, in the little hamlet of Grangerburg. It affords a picturesque illustration of the life that was led by our forefathers, who had come out here from their homes in the East with noble purposes, intent to rear new homes and transform the wood-covered regions of the West into fruitful and productive fields. Some of the pioneers are still in our midst, and they recall, with vivid and joyful recollection, that which to us to-day must seem like a life of toil and hardship.

But a few years after their arrival and location in Granger Township, the wife of John Burt died and left him a widower. His brother Benjamin, then being still a young man and unmarried, they two together left their first settlement, near the southeast line of the township, and moved into the locality where now stands the village of Grangerburg. They erected a double log cabin, quite pretentious in its way in those days, being somewhat in advance in its architectural make-up of the few cabins that were scattered about the township. The two together kept bachelor's hall, but not just in the sense that we understand it to-day—a life of indolence and laziness. They followed their occupation of clearing and cultivating the land with industry and perseverance. They were both trim good housekeepers, and, being of a sociable and hospitable turn of mind, their little cabin home soon became the rendezvous of the settlers in the township. There was always cheer and entertainment for man and beast at the Burt cabin. The hunter and trapper, and the journeying emigrant who was looking for lands still further West, stopped here to find



comfort and food. And still nobler purposes than giving mere comfort and social entertainment did this little open cabin serve for several years. The building was used for a private day school during the winter of 1821, and Mr. John Burt, an intelligent and enterprising young farmer, taught the young "ideas" of the colony how to shoot. During the same time, Calvin Putnam organized a singing class, which held its session twice a week in the Burt house in the winter months. Itinerant ministers, who were then passing to and fro between the different settlements in Eastern and Southern Ohio, frequently stopped here, and religious services were held, at which most of the settlers attended. A foot-path, known in the early days of the Ohio settlements as the "Preachers' Path," from the fact that it was used by the ministers in passing from colony to colony, and had been cut through the woods for that purpose, ran a little distance west of the Burt cabin, in Granger Township. It was soon made, after it had become known, a regular stopping-place by the traveling ministers of various denominations who passed through Northeastern Ohio in the pioneer days and dispensed the word of God to all who were willing to listen.

After a few years of bachelor's life with his brother Ben, John Burt remarried, and he brought into the Granger household, to manage and preside over its domestic affairs, his newly acquired wife, whose maiden name had been Lucinda Hammond, and whose home had been in Copley. The good cheer of the household continued, and, if anything, it rather increased with the coming of the pleasant and sweet-tempered young wife. In 1825, the brother Benjamin returned to the old home in New York, where he remained for several years, and, in 1829, was married to Nancy P. Hatch, of Ontario County. The following year the young couple removed to Ohio, and took up their permanent abode in Granger, among their friends and relatives.

Francis Young, with a family of three children, and Robert Green, with a family of eight, left their home in Columbia County, Penn., in the spring of 1820, and moved into Ohio. They moved in a train of three wagons, drawn by horses. They first stopped at Springfield, which was then in Portage County, where they left their families with their wagons and household goods, and pressed on westward on horseback to prospect the land and find good locations for homes. The two prospectors passed through the southern part of Medina County into Huron and Seneca and Sandusky, but did not find any land suitable to their desires. On their return journey, they stopped overnight at the Burt house, in Granger. They related their travels, and told of their mission in trying to find suitable and well-watered land, on which to locate. Mr. Burt told them that he could, perhaps, accommodate them with just the kind of land they were looking after. He took them out the next morning to show them the tracts of land in the township that were for sale. On the same day the two together made a purchase of 240 acres of land in the eastern part of the township. They then proceeded to Springfield, and, in a few days, returned with their families and goods, and at once set to work to build homesteads on the newly acquired lands.

Harris Reed is another of the settlers, who came with his family into the township at an early day. Like most of the Granger people, he came from Ontario County, N. Y. He had first moved with his family to Sandusky County, further west, and had settled there for several years. In 1825, he bought a tract of land in Granger Township, and settled permanently in a locality in the eastern part of the township, which is now distinguished as Reed's Hill.

During the winter of 1836, a religious revival was in progress at the church near the center of the township, where now stands the town-





hall. It was conducted by the Rev. Francis Green, a Close Communion Baptist Minister, from Geauga County. He was a peculiar character, a sort of Peter Cartwright, crude, direct and forcible in his arguments and exhortations, and he soon wrought public excitement up to a high pitch. People flocked in from every direction, and the church was crowded daily. During the services on a Sunday afternoon, the floor of the church suddenly gave way, and the people that crowded the church were hurled in a mass into the basement below. A scene of confusion and wild excitement followed. There was at first a vast scramble to get from out of the debris, and when all had got out and the interior had been cleared, it was found that there were a number more or less seriously injured. Chester Ambler, a young man, had one of his legs broken, and an old lady named Elsa Wilder had an arm broken, and received a contusion on the head. No deaths resulted from this accident. The catastrophe took place while the revivalist minister was in the midst of his "fire and brimstone" exhortations. The pulpit was not carried away with the floor, and remained intact. Viewing the mass of scrambling beings below him in the pit, the minister, at first amazed and horrified, shouted out in the might of his voice, "The great day of His wrath is come, and who will be able to stand it?" and "Such is a fair sample of the burning pit of hell!" These remarks, and the manner in which he treated the accident, caused an intense feeling against the preacher. The meetings were at once discontinued. Several years later, the church was destroyed by fire.

Eliza Young, a young lady whose parents were residing in Sharon, was teaching school in the fall of 1842, on the Smith road, in Granger. After school-hours on a Friday afternoon, she rode home with Isaac Van Orman. A heavy storm was blowing. Passing along the road, one of the heavy oak trees that had

been girdled a number of years previously, suddenly fell before the wind, striking the carriage, killing Mr. Van Orman instantly, and injuring Miss Young so that she died a few days later.

Under virtue of the military provisions of the Ohio State laws, a militia company was organized in Granger in 1819. At first, the townships of Sharon, Copley, Bath and Granger, joined together and formed one company, forming part of the regiment allotted to Medina County. Annual drills were held, the place of holding them alternating between the different townships. A few years later, the Granger people formed a company of their own. John Burt was elected Captain; Daniel Burt, Lieutenant, and Nathaniel Goodwin Ensign. The annual drills of these home soldiers formed an event of great interest to all the inhabitants. The exercises generally continued for a number of days, and furnished frolic and excitement for young and old.

The Fourth of July, 1826, the semi-centennial anniversary day of American Independence, forms a red-letter day in the history of Granger Township, on account of the observance of this national fete day by its people. The people congregated from far and near; from Medina, Hinckley, Sharon and Bath. Several military companies from these townships came in full force, and they, together with the Granger company, went through the different military evolutions, making a grand and very impressive display. The housewives had brought provisions along, and a grand banquet was held in the open woods. The Declaration of Independence was read, and a Fourth of July oration delivered by Mr. Moses Bissell.

Remson's tract forms the northwest corner of the township, and contains an exact quarter of its area, being two miles in width and three miles in length, on the northern boundary of the township. This tract had come in possession of one Remson, of New York, shortly after the division of the "Reserve" lands by the





Connecticut Land Company. He deeded it to the children of one of his daughters, with the proviso that the land was not to be sold until they had attained age. So the lands of this tract remained in a complete state of wilderness, save that now and then a few "squatters" located on it, and endeavored to make an unsettled and precarious living by hunting and raising small patches of corn and potatoes, until the year 1845, when the entire tract was placed on the market, and, within a few years, the whole area was sold. William Canfield, of Medina, was appointed agent by the owners, and he disposed of the land at an average price of \$10 per acre. The first settlers on these lands were Bushnell Seymour and Lucian Perry. A little hamlet had sprung up near the center of the tract. There are several small industrial establishments located here, and it contains a post office.

The political organization of the township took place in February, 1820; and the first election for civil officers occurred at the house of Seth Paull, on the first Monday of April, in the same year. The Board of Trustees elected at this time consisted of N. A. Goodwin, S. Paull and Festus Ganyard; John Coddling was elected as Clerk, and Burt Coddling as Justice of the Peace. In January of 1822, the Trustees appointed Ira Ingraham as Township Constable. The first money paid into the township treasury was a fine of 25 cents, imposed upon one of its inhabitants for swearing. Of that money, one-half was paid out for paper on which to record the township proceedings; the other half was to William Paull, for bringing the State laws and journals from the county seat. The selection of a name for the new township caused a little strife among the people. The names of Berlin, Ontario, Coddling and Granger were suggested. It was finally decided, by vote, that the township should be known as Granger, in honor of the former proprietor, who had become noted and distin-

guished as a Legislator in the State of Connecticut, and as one of the Postmaster Generals in Washington's administration. In the political affairs of the county and State, Granger occupies a conspicuous place. A number of its citizens have held positions of public honor, as county and State officers.

Two years after the organization of the township, a public town hall was erected a short distance west of Grangerburg. It was a log house, and, aside from the public purposes for which it was used, it also served for a number of years as a meeting-house for the society of Presbyterians that had been started in the colony. On the 10th day of October, 1860, Franklin Sylvester deeded a tract of land near the geographical center of the township to the Board of Trustees and their successors, and, the following spring, the present town hall was erected there.

In commercial and industrial interests, Granger does not compare with some of its neighbor townships. The first mercantile goods were imported by John Burt, and he continued to keep a small country store for a number of years at the locality which is known as Grangerburg. Alva Stimson opened up a store at the cross roads, a few rods north of where the town hall is now located, in the year 1828. Squire Lee, who lived diagonally opposite from him, brought in a limited supply of country merchandise a few years later. Marvin Hopkins was also one of the early storekeepers at the "Burg."

A post office was established at Grangerburg in 1825, John Burt receiving the commission as Postmaster. He officiated as such for a number of years. The town was supplied with a weekly mail for many years. A Frenchman by the name of Pierre Dubeau carried the mail, passing from Elyria to Ravenna. He traveled on horseback, arriving and departing at no definite or particular time of the week, and always blowing his horn with great gusto



to signalize his coming. The town now is supplied with a tri-weekly mail, passing from Sharon to Cleveland and return.

The religious sentiment of the pioneers of this township manifested itself in an outward form as soon as the first cabins had been covered with roofs. Missionaries from Connecticut came among them and preached the word of God. The Rev. Israel was one of the earnest laborers in this field, and he came quite often, passing from settlement to settlement through the Reserve counties. A church society, on the united plan of the Congregational and Presbyterian faith, was organized in the fall of 1819, by the Rev. W. Hanford and Caleb Pilkins. There were ten members at the first organization, and their names are Elizur Hills, Abigail Hills, James and Phebe Gan-yard, Ira and Lydia Ingraham, John and Dolly Turner, Lawrence and Mary Moore, Wealthy Dye and Charity and Hannah Turner. Part of these members were residents of Bath Township.

Meetings were, at first, held in private houses, and thereafter in the town hall, near the "Burg," until, in after years, through outward influence, caused by dissensions that had broken out among the United Presbyterians and Congregationalists throughout the county, the Granger society disbanded, and has never been re-organized.

The Methodist Episcopal society was organized by Elder Nunn in the year 1820. The first members were Belia and Amanda Spencer, Jane Griffin, Hannah McCloud, Samuel McCloud, John McCloud, Samuel Griffin and Lydia Spencer. William Peats, of Bath, was the Class-leader of the church for a few years, when he was succeeded by John McCloud. James McMahon, Russell Bigelow, Adam Poe, Benjamin Christy and U. S. Yocum were the ministers of this denomination who preached to the Granger people in the early days. A hewed-log house for religious

services was erected by the society—within a few years after organization. Within recent years, a large church edifice has been erected at Grangerburg, where worship is held every Sunday. The church now numbers about one hundred members. A split was caused in the society in the year 1844, and a new class, called the Wesleyan Methodists, was formed by the dissenters. A small church edifice was built by John McCloud on "Liberty Hill," and religious meetings held there for nearly ten years, when this society again disbanded, and most of its members returned to the mother church. Elder Webber and Rev. George McCloud were the officiating ministers in this branch society, during its existence.

The first Baptist Church was formed by the Rev. Henry Hudson, of Royalton, in the fall of 1821, near the east line of the township, and their first meetings were held at Reed's Schoolhouse. The incorporators of this society were Whiting Freeman, Jesse H. Smith and Hoel Hatch. This was in the year 1837, and there were then twenty regular members in the church. A Baptist meeting-house was erected near the center of the township, a few years after the civil incorporation of the society, which, in 1865, was removed to Remson's Corners.

The society of the "Disciples of Christ," of Granger, was organized in 1838, with Seth Paull, Clarinda Paull, Harris Reed and wife, William Comstock and wife, Barlow Baker, Conrad Turner and Rebecca Low, as the first members. The Rev. William Hayden was the first officiating minister of this society. Their place of worship for quite a number of years was the Reed Schoolhouse, two and a half miles northeast from the "Burg." In 1862, a church edifice was built by the society. It numbers now over 150 members.

The matter of public instruction kept well apace, from the beginning of the colony, with its moral and material progress. William Paull





taught a class of seventeen scholars in a little log schoolhouse, in the eastern part of the township, in the fall and winter of 1819 and 1820. This is yet to-day known as Reed's Schoolhouse. John Coddington taught a school at Copley's Corners, for several years in the early days of the colony. John Burt taught at Grangerburg in 1820 and 1821. In 1848, a special schoolhouse was erected near the Burg, and a special and select school taught in it for several years. But it was discontinued until in the winter of 1880, when a select class was taught by C. A. Dustin.

The following abstracts taken from the Public Education Records for 1880, will exhibit the condition of the public schools in Granger

Township. The total enumeration of school children is 247. Of this, 139 are male and 108 female; the number of school districts in the township is eight. This statement is for the year ending September 1, 1880:

Balance on hand.....	\$1,691 53
State tax.....	378 00
Township tax for schools and school purposes.....	1,516 65
Irreducible tax.....	59 75
Fines, licenses, etc.....	21 22
Total.....	\$3,670 15
Whole amount paid teachers.....	\$1,134 00
Amount paid for sites and buildings.....	944 37
Amount paid for fuel, etc.....	173 08
Total expenses.....	\$2,251 45

## CHAPTER XXIII.

### MONTVILLE TOWNSHIP—PHYSICAL FEATURES—EARLY SETTLEMENT—GROWTH OF TOWNSHIP—THE BEGINNINGS OF CHURCH AND SCHOOL.

HAD the new world adopted the "pomp of power" known in the old, *cui bono* must have been the legend emblazoned upon the banners of the "Western Reserve." Peopled by a class of emigrants whose native State furnished little more than the bare necessities of life, utility became to them the rigid standard of excellence, and the secret source of their laborious success. Though the transplanting of this stock, and the progress of succeeding years have wrought many changes, and modified the Puritanic strictness of this rule, its influence is yet to be traced in the social economy of the "Reserve." This is undoubtedly more marked in sections remote from railroads, where the bustling activities of younger enterprises have less effect upon this intrenched conservatism; and it is here that the historian, dependent upon the active interest of those who form the connecting link between the pioneer days and

these, finds the greatest difficulty in securing the data for his work. Recognizing no value in the tradition of the early days, they have "let the dead past bury its dead," and made no sign. But to the rising generation, these early days, so full of toil and privation, which have passed beyond the reach of their hopes and fears, command an interest that is akin to the romantic, and it is for such interests that history is written. But a higher motive for perpetuating the history of those who subdued the wilderness and made the desert places to "blossom as the rose," is that we are thus able approximately to measure the value of what has been wrought for succeeding generations. It was a noble spirit of self-sacrifice that animated the pioneers of this land, and "bowed their strong manhood to the humble plow." Forgetful of their own ease at a time of life when years of toil could reasonably have demanded repose for their declining days, they



braved the untried difficulties of the wilder ness, that their children might achieve that greatness which their patriotic faith pictured in the future. The rapidly increasing population in a country devoid of manufactories left to the pioneer but one alternative, ease at the expense of their children's future, or a wider scope of cheaper lands, bought with a life of toil that found rest only beyond the grave. The broad lands pregnant with the promise of the coming harvest, the thousand homes adorned with the comforts and luxuries of an advanced civilization, the vast resources that command a nation's homage, are the grand memorials that set forth the virtue and wisdom of their choice.

The land which invited immigration to Montville was all that nature, in her pleasantest mood, could offer. A dense forest of elm, beech, oak, maple, black walnut, butter-nut, and, in the bottoms, a mixture of sycamore, covered every acre. Rocky River, taking its source in the high ground in the south-east part of the township, and flowing in a northwesterly course, with its tributaries, furnished an ample drainage, and, at the same time, supplied the motive power for those pioneer industries so essential to the success and comfort of the pioneer community. As its name suggests, this township was formed of high, rolling land, which, in many places, assumes a billowy character. Along Rocky River, the valley varies from upward of a mile in width, to a few rods, from which the land rises in easy undulations, to the height of some hundred feet, and gradually rising from this point to the higher portions in the western part of the township. This water-divide in the southern part of the township, is worthy of mention. Here Rocky River and the river Styx are separated only by a distance of about a mile, flowing in opposite directions, the water falling on the northern slope finding its way, ulti-

mately, into the St. Lawrence River, and thence to the ocean; and that on the southern slope, flowing off to the Ohio, and thence to the Gulf of Mexico. The soil in the high lands is of a clayey mixture, though not of that heavy, tough texture found in some parts of adjoining counties. Along the valleys of the streams in the eastern part of the township are rich bottom lands, that are remarkably productive. These lands are devoted to corn, largely; wheat and other grains find a better soil on the uplands. The ordinary system of mixed husbandry prevails here, though sheep-grazing and dairying received a large share of attention from the farmers. Montville is situated near the center of the county, and is bounded on the north by Medina, on the east by Sharon, south by Guilford, and on the west by La Fayette. No village has found a location in this township, save the extension of Medina Village, the southern part of which passes beyond the Smith road, which is the northern boundary of this township.

This territory, known in the Connecticut Company's survey as Township 6, Range 14, was early sold by the Connecticut Land Company to Gen. Aristarchus Champion, who, in 1818, caused it to be surveyed in sections, preparatory to settlement. In the early part of this year, Austin Badger, in company with Alonzo Hickox, started from Genesee County, N. Y., for the New Connecticut. Both were young, unmarried men, Badger being twenty-four years of age, and, packing their worldly effects into a knapsack, shouldered their burden and set out on foot for their destination. On reaching Buffalo, they took an open row-boat, hoping to accomplish their journey in a less tedious way. But prevailing head winds disappointed these anticipations, and they were glad to land at the mouth of Cattaraugus Creek. From this point, they traveled on foot to Erie, then known as Presque Isle. Here





they took a schooner to Ashtabula, when they resumed their journey on foot. Hickox had a brother living at Wooster, a fact that determined their destination. Following the old State road, they arrived at Weymouth on the 10th of May, and, proceeding the next morning, came to the residence of R. Ferris, who lived then near the present site of Medina Village, and took breakfast. Mr. Ferris was agent for the sale of the lands in that vicinity, and, learning the business of the young men, was very solicitous that they should return after their visit to Wooster and locate lands there. Without making any promises, the young men went on to Wooster, when, after spending several days without finding any advantageous opening, Mr. Badger returned to Medina. Mr. Ferris at once interested himself in his case, and, finding him with little money and anxious to secure something to do while examining the country, offered him a position with Abram Frieze, who was then surveying Montville. Taking the directions to find the surveying party, Mr. Badger started out, following the line of blazed trees until he came up with them. Here a young man who had been assisting the surveyor, sick of his job, proposed that Badger should take his place, which the latter was only too glad to accept. Continuing until July, they finished the survey, earning small wages and receiving the stipulated privilege of first choice of lands. After locating several lots in the southeastern part of the township, which were secured by article without any payment for two years, he returned to Medina and took a contract to clear what is now the square in Medina Village, boarding in the meanwhile with Mr. Ferris. Though unmarried, he did not neglect to prepare for future events, and, in 1819, put up a small log cabin, and, after clearing a small piece, planted a patch of corn. In the following year, he went

to Euclid, secured a wife, and, in the fall, took possession of his new home.

The year 1819 brought quite an influx of new-comers to the county seat, and many located lands in Montville Township. First of these was Samuel Brown, who took up 160 acres in the southern middle part of the township. Mr. Brown had come, originally, from New York, to Euclid, but, attracted by the reports from the new county then coming into the market, sought a home here. He had but a small family, and was in rather straitened circumstances. Neighbors were few, and situated at some distance apart, and it was found difficult to secure enough to raise a log cabin. Mr. Brown, in soliciting help, asked the neighbors to come directly after dinner, as, "the fact is," said he, "we have not got much to eat, and you may prefer to get home for supper." When the neighbors gathered, they found that Brown and his wife, with the aid of his team had succeeded in placing the logs so far, that one tier had to be removed to place the joist. There is a slight discrepancy as to authorities upon the fact whether Brown was really the first settler. The evidence seems rather to favor the right of Parker Pelton, Sr., to that title. At all events, they both came in about the same time. Pelton was originally from Connecticut to Euclid, whence he followed in the wake of the general movement to Medina. He took up a lot in the southeastern part of the township, just south of Badger's property. He bought one of the lots located by Mr. Badger, buying his contract for \$1 an acre, and occupying a deserted cabin until he could erect one of his own. About this same time Philo Welton came in, located land, and, leaving persons to make a clearing, returned to New York to bring on his family. On his return, his family found a home with Mr. Pelton until a cabin could be erected. Of Mrs. Welton, it is





said. that on one occasion she rode on horse-back through the woods to Euclid and back, alone, carrying her young babe before her on the saddle. She was intimately acquainted with James Buchanan when he was a clerk in the store near her native place. Thomas Currier, a native of New York, and a resident of Euclid, was another of the earlier settlers. He came into the township, took up land in the northeast part, and set to clearing his land, keeping "bachelor's hall" in the meanwhile. Following him, came Amasa Smith, from New York, and bought land just south of Currier. He was followed by his father and three brothers, but they stayed only a few years, when they all went farther west. Seth Hoyt came in from Summit County, locating west of Mr. Badger, and John Lawrence, about the same time, locating in the same neighborhood. Joseph Pimlot, who came in 1819, was an Englishman. He came to the country with the English army about 1812, but, taking a fancy to the new country, and desiring to leave the army and secure a home, accomplished both designs by deserting his company in Canada, and came to Cleveland. Here he laid hidden in a hog'shead, covered with tow, until after the final removal of the army. After marrying, he came from Cleveland in 1819, to Montville, purchasing land near the southern boundary of the township. This included the families that made up the little community of Montville Township, in 1820, with the exception of G. F. Atherton, of whom little is remembered.

Most of these families were of Connecticut extraction, and brought with them the habits and customs of "the land of steady habits." They were, for the time, sober, industrious people, and the wilderness soon gave way before their sturdy strokes. The land they came to was, in fact, what is known by the indiscriminate term of "a howling wilder-

ness." The natives had long before abandoned this country as a place of residence, and, though the surveyors found here and there evidences of their abandoned camps, none were seen in this section. To the westward, on Chippewa River, was located a considerable camp of Indians, who supported themselves by hunting and fishing, but their stay was of short duration, and few of the children of the pioneers of this township ever saw one of them. Game was found here in abundance, and formed a large share of the support of the first few years. What little stock was brought in was needed for other purposes than to supply meat, and were carefully cared for. Parker Pelton was one of the most successful hunters in this community, and frequently supplied the less fortunate with game. William Warner, though among the later emigrants, was noted as a hunter. Everybody in the township was in straitened circumstances, and the gift of a quarter of venison was always acceptable, and was for years the only meat that could be afforded. Mr. Warner, it is said, killed the last deer that were found in this county, one of them being shot just north of the swamp land in La Fayette Township. Mr. Warner was a native of New York, and came with an ox team from his Eastern home. It is said that his children had never seen a hickory-nut, and they were greatly delighted with some given them on their journey West. The woods continued, as late as 1832, to be a terror to new settlers. John Clark, the father of William P. Clark, Esq., who arrived in Montville that year, got lost while on a hunting expedition, and did not return until the whole neighborhood had organized to hunt for him. He fortunately struck a cabin, where he was directed to his home. Bears were found occasionally, and wolves, for the first few years, were a great drawback to stock raising, though they never



were bold enough to attack persons. Snakes, though not generally considered under the head of game, were frequently hunted in this locality. The earlier settlers found them in large numbers, consisting chiefly of rattlesnakes, and were obliged to exercise the most vigorous scrutiny to keep them out of the house. It is related that Mrs. Albro—wife of J. H. Albro—when a child, was observed to carry a cup of milk, regularly, out of the house. It excited no special attention, until one day she was found holding the cup for a large snake to drink the milk, in the meanwhile patting the head of the reptile. Such favoritism was at once broken up; but it was a number of years before they were exterminated from this country.

Supplies were got only at a considerable distance. A "store" was early established at Medina Village, but little more than powder and lead could be procured there, and most settlers in this vicinity went to Cleveland for their store goods. Here the difficulty of getting currency was deeply felt. But few of the pioneers had ready money, and most of the products of the frontier farm were a drug in the market. At home a system of barter prevailed and money was to be secured only from newcomers, or a chance traveler, who paid for his accommodation. Most of the cabins had glass for their windows, but iron goods of any sort, even as household utensils, were limited to the few indispensable articles needed for constant use. Wooden pegs and pins were substituted for nails, and wooden latches and hinges answered very well the purposes of the better ones made of iron. Some had doors, in the construction of which there was no iron at all. Salt was at an inconceivable price, and it is said that a team could not draw wheat enough to buy a barrel of salt. Flour and meal were procured at Middlebury, now a part of the city of Akron, where a log mill was

erected, about 1815. The journey was made through an unmarked wilderness, through marshes and over unbridged streams, making the twenty miles' journey a five days' undertaking. About 1830, a mill was built at Weymouth, in Medina Township. This was located upon a poor stream, and furnished a very unreliable dependence for the pioneers of this section. Another, which gained considerable reputation for fine work, was a mill established at Wadsworth. The motive power was supplied by two springs that brought the water to an overshot wheel, about twenty-two feet in diameter. The power was entirely inadequate to the work demanded, and it is said that the wheel hardly made a revolution without stopping on its round. This drawback was overcome by the excellent flour which was manufactured, and the pioneers would take a quantity of wheat there and wait until it could be ground rather than take the inferior flour at other mills. In later years, it was the custom of the farmers to take some sixty bushels of wheat at a time, which would furnish flour for nearly a year. A saw-mill was early erected in Montville. The first lumber brought into the township was by Mr. Badger, who hauled enough for his chamber floor from Bagdad, in about 1820. Three years later, he built a mill on Rocky River, on land owned by John Morris. The latter furnished the capital to build it, and hired Mr. Badger to build and run it. This stood about two years, when it burned down by accident. A settler, desiring some lumber at once, was allowed to run the mill at night, so as not to inconvenience those whose orders preceded, and, failing to properly dispose of the fire, the building caught fire and was destroyed. It was only a log structure, but it was a severe loss to the little community at that time. Mr. Badger had, fortunately, just finished sawing lumber enough to build a barn. The first frame build-





ings, however, were erected previous to this time, the lumber being hauled from Bagdad. These were a house erected by Mr. Welton, and a barn erected by George F. Atherton. What is remarkable about this pioneer mill in Montville, and characteristic of the class of emigrants in this part of the State, is, that the dam was substantially built of stone. It is the experience of those who have had occasion to investigate the earlier customs of the first settlers, that enterprises of this character are generally of less permanence. A brush dam, frequently renewed, is the average attempt in this matter, and such constructions generally suffice for the first two decades of a settlement. Here, aided by the proprietors of the large tracts of land, most of the improvements were of a more substantial character.

A later enterprise, but one that flourishes best only in a new country, was established in Montville about 1844. This was an ashery, by a Mr. Van Gelder, who bought some five hundred acres, which is known as the old King farm. In addition to the ashes he could purchase of the settlers, he carried on an extensive clearing on his own place, clearing off about one hundred acres per year. He manufactured "black salts," and traded his product for ashes, and, soon after beginning the business, laid in a small stock of groceries and dry goods, to sell and exchange for ashes. He continued the business for a few years and then left, the business dying out.

In the matter of stock, there was little else than cattle. Most of the pioneers came with ox teams, and most of them, but not all, brought in one or two cows. In 1820, there were only two horses, Mr. Badger and Parker Pelton each owning one. Two years later, the assessment made by Mr. Welton showed only three horses and forty-one cattle. Hogs were introduced at the same time, but, contrary to the almost

universal practice in new countries, these were not allowed to run wild in the woods to feed on the nuts that were to be found in abundance. Mr. Welton, it is said, lost some in the woods, that forgot their domestic habits and ranged at will for a time, but his sense of propriety overcame any desire for profit he might have had, and he, one day, taking his gun, killed the pigs and crippled the sow so that she could be restored to the pen. About 1820, Parker Pelton bought about forty head of sheep at Euclid and brought them to Montville. They were, however, a constant care. The wolves made sad havoc among them, in spite of all the watchfulness that the family could bestow; and, what was worse, the dogs, many of which were of wolf blood, were more mischievous than the wild animals. By winter, he had lost twenty, and, for several successive years, he found it impossible to pass the winter with more than twenty head, no matter how many additions he made to the flock. He finally erected a high, light fence about the field, which made a large fold of the inclosure, and succeeded in raising wool enough for his own use.

The early attempt at farming in a country covered with timber admits of but little variation in the methods employed. A small clearing was made, a part of the timber utilized in the erection of a cabin, 18x20 feet in size, and the balance burned. This much was accomplished in the fall, or early in the spring, and a crop of corn put in with the hoe alone. Plowing was out of the question, and frequently the crop did not get planted until June, but the length of the season and the strength of the soil made ample amends for such delay. While the crop was growing, the pioneer busied himself with girdling a wider area, extending in all directions from his cabin. The next season they were ready to chop down, log and burn, and the space was prepared



for the inevitable crop of corn. The corn ground of the previous year was turned over to wheat, and was more or less tilled for its reception. Sometimes a rude attempt at plowing was made, but frequently a heavily weighted triangular harrow sufficed for tearing the surface enough to receive the seed. With such cultivation, the land yielded an abundant return. Parker Pelton raised the first three acres of wheat ever cut in the township, and Capt. Badger threshed it out with a flail, taking the seventh bushel as his wages. The only demand was for home consumption, save now and then a bushel or two to some new-comer who has not had time to put in a crop. The land, enriched by the accumulated leaves of years, seemed well-nigh exhaustless. One field was planted with alternate crops of corn and wheat for sixteen years, when it was sown to clover. This was fed down by pasturing it, and then turned under. On this, a crop of wheat was sown, which sprang up into so rank a growth as to prove worthless. Straw was found sixteen feet long, where the stalk would grow beyond its strength and lodge, and springing up with new growth only to lodge again. Only about five bushels of grain was got to the acre. Corn planted upon this field in the succeeding year yielded 130 bushels to the acre. This exceeding fertility, however, was, to a great degree, lost upon the pioneer. The lack of transportation made every sort of produce of little avail as a source of income. Stills for the converting of corn into whisky, which elsewhere often made a market for this cereal, were not often found here. In Montville, only one ever found place, and that but for a short time. A young man by the name of Case, while working for a farmer in Copley, in Summit County, was engaged in making whisky. At the expiration of his term of service, there being no demand for his services elsewhere, in company

with his brother, he established a still on his father's farm in the northern part of the township, some two miles and a half east of Medina Village. It continued only about six months, when it was discontinued.

Montville seemed to be off the line of all travel, as hardly an Indian trail was to be found anywhere within its limits. Besides the surveyor's blaze there was no guide, and Samuel Brown, one of the first to come to the township, was obliged to "bush" his road out to his land. In all the traffic with Medina Village and elsewhere, each man made his own road, as the condition of the soil did not admit of its being used often, it soon becoming impassable on account of the mud. The first regularly cut-out road that touched the township was the Smith road, which forms the boundary between Montville and Medina townships. This road was cut out by Gen. Smith, during the war of 1812, as an army thoroughfare, and formed the only outlet for travel east and west. An old State road from Cleveland to Wooster was the thoroughfare in this direction, and was the trail by which most of the immigration found its way here. In 1823, an enterprise was set on foot which had for its object to convert this into a regular turnpike. The large land-owners along the proposed route, appreciating the benefit it would confer upon their interests, subscribed liberally to its cost, and among others, Gen. Champion. This brought the road through the western side of Montville. The first half-mile from the southern line was contracted and built by Capt. Badger, the rest of the road within this township being built by Lawrence, Pelton and Welton, all residents of this township. The road was completed in two or three years, at a cost of about \$500 per mile, through Montville, and stages were regularly run between the terminal points.





Montville was named after a Vermont town by the original proprietor. It was organized in 1820, the first Township Trustees being T. M. Currier, Aaron Smith and Austin Badger. G. F. Atherton was Township Clerk. No Constable was elected, because, it is said, the people supposed there would be no necessity for such an officer, and the event justified this good opinion of themselves. A Justice of the Peace, however, was elected, Philo Welton receiving every vote but one in the township, and thus began a judicial career that ended as Associate Judge of the Common Pleas Court of the County. Austin Badger succeeded Mr. Welton as Justice two years later. At the first election, there were but ten votes polled; two years later, the vote had increased to fifteen, a marked evidence of growth. The social customs in this community were much the same as found in other early settlements. Husking-bees, loggings, raisings, and the various entertainments which combined work and play, arranged by the women, gave opportunity for the merry romp that was all the more enjoyable for the severe labors that gave rise to the occasion. Whisky played an important part in all the social affairs of the community, though not to the extent found in some of the earlier settlements. On the Fourth of July, in 1820, a patriotic celebration of the day was had at the county seat, in which the whole population of Montville participated. Mr. Badger, in his contribution to Northrop's history, says: "All the inhabitants of Montville attended that celebration, and let it be recorded as a part of history, that on the Fourth of July, 1820, no human being could be found in Montville Township, for the reason that patriotism fired every inhabitant to be at the celebration. Three ox-teams hauled to Medina, on that day, every living soul in Montville Township, together with a young fat

hog, a fat sheep and a few chickens, intended to be eaten in common at this great celebration. From every inhabited township in the county the people came with their ox-teams, and by noon there was a large gathering and a cordial greeting. The dinner was of the best that the country afforded, and all fared plentifully. Sweetened liquor was made in a tub, which was refilled often during the day. From that tub every person dipped in a tin and drank when inclination prompted. Many of the more sturdy men took the whisky raw, saying that the sugar took away its flavor." Some of the important early social events are thus noted in the same work by Capt. Badger: "The first marriage in the township was W. R. Williams to Nancy Monroe. Henry Pelton was the first child born in the township. The first death and burial was that of Mrs. Catharine Badger."

A prominent feature of Montville, and a very striking one to a stranger going over the township, is the pioneer monument erected to the memory of Fairfax Smith. Mr. Smith was one of the second line of immigration that contributed to the population of this township. He was a native of Massachusetts, whence he early moved to Vermont, and in later years to Madison County, N. Y. He was here when the popular rage seemed to be to emigrate to Ohio, and, feeling the need of more room for his growing family of seven children, he came to Montville in June, 1832. The journey was made by the family in a three-horse wagon, while the household goods came by way of the canal and Lake Erie to Ohio. Once here, Mr. Smith bought several improvements, amounting in all to some three hundred and fifty acres, right in the midst of a complete wilderness, with no other clearing near, save the opening made by Samuel Brown. The monument was erected in 1879, by his son Linus Smith, and stands upon a knoll just west of his residence. It consists





of a base of Berea sandstone, six feet two inches square and two feet thick; a sub-base of the same material five feet two inches square and twenty-two inches thick; a second sub-base of Quincy granite, four feet four inches square and two feet thick. Upon this is placed the die, of Quincy granite, three feet eight inches square and five feet two inches high; a cap of the same material, three feet eight inches square and two feet thick, finishes the pedestal. A statue of Mr. Smith, in the finest Carrara marble, six feet eight inches in height, crowns the pile. Inscriptions on the die record the death of Fairfax Smith and Abigail, his wife, as well as a child of Linus Smith. The figure represents the subject in the garb of a frontiersman, such as the prints usually represent as the typical pioneer of the West. The figure stands uncovered, with hat in hand, as though greeting the passer-by, and rests with the other on an ax, which is supported upon a stump by his side. The whole cost was \$2,000, and forms a fitting memorial of not only the particular life which it commemorates, but also of the whole class of those who wrought that others might enjoy the fruit of their labor.

The people who came to the Reserve were eminently a religious people, and early sought to bring about them in this new home the influence of the church. For the first few years, owing to the smallness of their number and the scattered character of the settlement, it was impossible for the community in Montville to organize any church movement, though they early embraced such opportunities of attending worship as were offered. The first services in the township were held by Rev. Roger Searle, of Medina Village, as early as 1820 or 1821. The services were conducted at first in the cabins, and, a very little later, in the school-houses that were erected. In 1829, Rev. Alva Sanford organized a parish of the Episcopal

order, which comprised nine members. This organization, although it never erected a place of worship, continued its existence separately for awhile, when it was merged into the church at Medina. A few years after Mr. Searle, Rev. Steven Barnes came into the township to reside. Mr. Champion, the original owner of the township, desirous of securing his services for the new community, gave him one hundred acres to settle here. He labored here, with more less results, for several years. In 1830, the Methodist Church constituted a class, and, for years, held services in the school-houses, or, more often, in private houses. In 1844, they erected a place of worship, which still stands, near the center of the township. The building of the church was effected through the aid of Mr. Champion, who seemed to have not so much a special creed as the moral welfare of the community at heart. He promised those desiring a church for the Methodist organization to contribute \$300, which was quite a help in those days. With this encouragement, they set to work and soon had a comfortable building. Mr. John I. Wheeler was appointed a committee of one to secure the building, and he spent a year in this undertaking. The first class was composed of John I. Wheeler, Asa Bradley, Washington Nichols, John Nichols, John Fritz, Daniel Wheeler, Asa House and their wives, Lucy, Lucinda and Friend Morse, Mary Bradley, Mrs. Betsy Nichols, Miss Bunker and Zenas Beach. Services are held there every Sabbath, with a sermon in the afternoon, once in two weeks, by Rev. W. B. Farrar, of Medina.

The establishment of schools preceded the organization of the churches. As early as 1820, a log schoolhouse was begun in the southeast part of the township, but finally abandoned before it was completed, because it was found there were no scholars to attend a school if established. Two years later, a log school-



house was established upon Mr. Badger's farm, where Caroline Babbitt taught the first summer school, consisting of eight scholars, receiving 75 cents per week. The following winter, school was taught by Mrs. Badger. In 1824, taking advantage of the situation, the settlement of Montville set off one-half of the township into one school district, and levied a tax for the erection of a substantial brick school-house. In this way, Gen. Champion was forced to bear the larger part of the expense. He resisted this action until convinced that there no successful resistance for him, when he yielded as gracefully as possible in the nature of the case. This building was located on Pelton's land, and was first occupied by Samuel McClure, as teacher, whose father was then a resident of the township. Mr. McClure

is now Judge of the Court of Common Pleas in Summit County. The status of the schools, as shown by the reports to the County Auditor, is as follows:

Balance on hand, September 1, 1879.....	\$744 78
Amount of State tax received.....	421 50
Local taxes for school purposes.....	264 15

Total receipts from all sources.....	\$1,457 50
Whole amount paid teachers.....	\$1,071 25
Contingent expenses.....	191 95

Total expenses.....	\$1,263 30
Balance on hand, September 1, 1880.....	\$194 30

There were eight school districts; value of school property, not given; number of teachers employed—gentlemen, 8; ladies, 9; average pay per month—gentlemen, \$25; ladies, \$10; number of pupils enrolled—boys, 133; girls, 100; average daily attendance—boys, 77; girls, 67.

## CHAPTER XXIV.\*

HOMER TOWNSHIP—ITS PHYSICAL CONTOUR—THE FIRST SETTLER—A GERMAN COLONY—ITS POLITICAL ORGANIZATION—A MINING COMPANY—RELIGIOUS SOCIETIES—AGRICULTURAL PURSUITS—ITS CHURCHES AND SCHOOLHOUSES.

THE pioneer histories of the different townships in the western part of Medina County are in many respects the same. What were the interests and pursuits of the first members of one settlement were very much the same in the neighboring colony. Many of the incidents of the earlier pioneer days of Harrisville Township belong to territory which is now included in the township of Homer. The two together formed a kind of domestic brotherhood, and their home affiliations were, in many respects, the same. Shortly after the colonization of the Harrisville people, in the "Swamp basin" of that township some of its members penetrated further west; a few, at first, as hunters in quest of game which abounded in this entire region, others to open

the wilderness, and to establish new homes and settlements. A few rude log huts had been put up in several parts of the township as early as 1817, by migrating Nimrods. The stay of these hunters and trappers was generally of but very short duration, and the extent of their usefulness consisted, in the main, in depleting the number of wolves and bears that overran the country.

What is now Homer was formerly a part of Lorain County, being named Richmond Township, and was attached to Sullivan Township of that county. With the formation of Summit County, the eastern tier of townships of Medina County were set off with the new county organization, and Spencer and Homer were taken from Lorain County and added to Medina.

In the political and geographical divisions of

\* Contributed by Charles Neill, Medina, Ohio.





Medina County, Homer forms the southwestern township. It is bounded on the east by Harrisville, on the north by Spencer, on the west by Ashland County, and on the south by Ashland and Wayne Counties. Its area and extent are the same as that of the other townships of Medina County, embracing twenty-five square miles. The surface of land is not so diversified as that of some of the other townships of the county. It is slightly undulating, with the ground here and there broken by "spring runs." From west to east the gently rolling surface of the southern part of the township is cut through by one of the fountain streams of Black River, meandering in its course, and affording, at various points, some fine exposures of Cuyahoga shale. In some places, the bluffs are thirty feet high, and the opportunity of tracing out the succession of layers is very good. The rock is soft, gray shale, with interspersed layers of hard, sandy shale, of a lighter color. The latter is occasionally worked out of the river-bed, and used for foundation stone for bridges, buildings, etc.; but it is too hard to be cut well, and long weathering will cause it to disintegrate or split into thin slabs. Concretions of iron are found in the shale of this township, as in others, but the live concretions are infrequent. No good fossil specimens are to be found here, the shale being too soft to hold the forms.

It was a dozen or more years after Harrisville had been colonized that the first permanent settlement was made in Homer. John Park, who had moved into Ohio with his family from his home, near Hookstown, Beaver Co., Penn., in 1818, had, after living two years near Wooster, Wayne County, located in the southwestern part of Harrisville Township. He removed in the spring of 1831, into the territory which is now included in Homer Township, and there made the first permanent settlement. With the assistance of two or three of his sons, who were then growing into manhood, he erected a cabin

and a few rude structures for the shelter of his domestic animals, consisting of several yoke of oxen and a horse. The wilderness was broken, and, in the course of the coming winter, they had several acres of land cleared, a small part put into wheat, and in the spring they planted their crops of corn, potatoes and oats. About this time Batchelder Wing moved into the neighborhood with his family. These settlers could not be considered isolated in this settlement. It was only a few miles to the center of the Harrisville settlement, which was at this time blooming out into a full-grown civic town, with its attendant pleasures and comforts of life, and, at this time, formed one of the most important localities of the new county of Medina. It was little more than a mile from the new Parks settlement to their nearest neighbors, a half dozen families or more who were located in the western part of Harrisville Township, in and about that part which is now known as Crawford Corners.

Within a few years, several more families immigrated into the new territory and settled on its fertile soil, and underwent the toilsome and laborious drudgery of clearing the land. Among these new arrivals were Duncan Williams, Elijah Wing, Henry Laughman, Asa, Baird, Samuel and Isaac Vanderhoof, Webster Holcomb, Charles and Daniel Perkins, James Stevenson, David Snively, John Douglas, William Finley, George Durk, Solomon Smith, James and Joseph Crawford, Solomon and John Miller and William Jeffreys. All of these pioneers settled permanently with their families in close proximity to each other, in the southeastern part of the township. Several more families moved into the neighborhood in 1834; among them being Joseph Faulk and Skene Low, who, with his young wife, had come all the way from Scotland to find a new home in the Far West. They came by the Hudson River and Erie Canal to Buffalo, and then by way of Lake Erie to Cleveland, making a set-



tlement among the Homer people. In the meantime, and while yet the part of the township which to-day forms the Center, and where the village of Homerville is now located, was an unbroken forest, settlements had been made in the northeastern part of the township by a new class of people, and of different race affiliations from their neighbors a little way south. There were several families of German Pennsylvanians, who had come from their home State and had made settlements in this new country. Among the first of these were Eli Garman, Jonathan Holburn and John Miller, who bought tracts of land of Samuel Neal, an Eastern land speculator. This was in the year 1833. The first of these settlers, Eli Garman, after having located his land and built a log cabin with other accessory buildings, returned to Pennsylvania and soon after returned with his young wife, whom he had left at the home in his native State. Many of their people from the German districts in old Pennsylvania, soon followed these first pioneers in the new settlement. A large area of forest lands was soon transformed into fruitful fields, and this German colony in a short time became one of the most populous districts in the township. Industrious, frugal and thrifty, these Germans have wrested wealth and riches from the soil, and have grown into one of the most important elements in the agricultural life of Homer Township.

In the year 1833, an effort was made for a separate township organization by some of the settlers of Homer. After the grant had been given by the County Commissioners for a distinct township organization with the regular political powers, the work was at once completed with a special election of civil officers for the new corporation. The election was held in a little log schoolhouse in the Vanderhoof District in June, 1834. There were nineteen voters, and, as near as can be learned, their names were William Duncan, James Stevenson, Daniel Snively, John Park, John Tanner, John Doug-

las, George Durk, Elijah Wing, Batchelder Wing, Samuel and Isaac Vanderhoof, John and William Jeffrey, Charles and Daniel Perkins, Asa Baird, Webster Holcomb, Solomon Miller and William Jeffrey. The Judges of Election were Batchelder Wing, John Tanner and Asa Baird. The board of township officers elected at this first "town meeting" were John Tanner, John Park and Batchelder Wing, as Trustees; Webster Holcomb as Constable, and Isaac Vanderhoof as Clerk. Asa Baird was elected a Justice of the Peace, and he served in this capacity for a number of years. Several minor offices were also brought at once into operation. There was an Overseer of the Poor, an "Ear-mark" Recorder, a Fence Overseer, a half-dozen or more Road Supervisorships, and last, but by no means least, the Tax-Lister. The good people of the infant township managed it with such tact that about every one of its citizens filled some sort of a township office. But this was all a matter of honorable distinction, as there was no money in any one of these offices. In the spring election of the next year, the total vote had increased to twenty-seven.

It was about this time that the first settlements at the center of the township, where now stands the little hamlet of Homerville, were made. Asa and Osias Baird, the latter of whom had moved up from Big Prairie, in Wayne County, were the first settlers at this point. Another settlement had also been made in the northwest part of the township. Hence, it was deemed necessary that the seat of government should be centrally located, so the next election was held at the Center settlement, in a little log school-building that had been erected the year before. This was the Presidential election, in which Martin Van Buren was chosen Chief Magistrate of the Union; and, if all reports are true, the people of Homer did not take any unusual interest in the national contest. There were but seventeen voters recorded on the poll-list. At the next spring election for township





officers, forty-two voters cast their ballots. From thence forward, more interest seems to have been manifested by the citizens of the town in political affairs. The township now also, from year to year, became more thickly populated. Immigrants came in from every direction. The first tax-list of personal property, made out by the Township Assessor in 1835, recorded seven horses and forty-two cattle, and the value of personal property was estimated at \$1,735. The Medina County Tax Duplicates for 1840 show that the value of lands and buildings in Homer Township was \$42,812; the value of personal property, \$4,440; and the taxes assessed for that year, \$693.51. In 1845, the value of lands and buildings had decreased to \$33,710, and the personal property had increased to \$11,140 and the total amount of taxes levied for this year was \$673.45. In 1850, the value of the real estate in the township had advanced to \$127,340, and the personal property to \$24,208. The taxes amounted to \$947.64. In the next decade, the value of real and personal property in the township had more than doubled itself, the former being assessed at \$287,700, and the latter at \$84,722, and the taxes collected for that year show a total of \$3,042.13. To show the gradual development of the township from its infancy up to the present date, we need but look at the increase in population from its earliest days. In 1833, there were seventy-two souls in the little colony; in 1840, it had reached 653, and in 1850, it had reached a total of 1,102. From that date forward, the township, strange and singular as it may seem in a new and growing country, has decreased in population. In 1860, there were 993 persons enumerated, and in 1870, no more than 886. The census returns of 1880, show a population of 865 souls. The number of voters, or such of them as practiced their rights of American citizenship, which, from nineteen at the township organization in 1833, had gone to forty-two in 1837; and, in 1840, to 132; in

1850, reached 273. Ten years later, the vote of the township stood 231; and, in 1870, it was 215. At the Presidential election, held on the 2d of November, 1880, there were 227 votes cast.

An early event of some importance in the young settlement was the birth of a daughter to John Park and wife. This occurred in August, 1833. The young child was named Harriet. Another event of note, which occurred several years later—notable from the fact that it was the first of the kind in the township—was the marriage of Charles Atkins and Elizabeth Campbell. Many social affairs of a similar kind came in quick succession in the following years, as the township had been quite extensively settled by this time. There was plenty of “giving in marriage.” Each one of these matrimonial occurrences caused a ripple of excitement in the settlement, as is the usual wont in all localities of the civilized world. Numerous attentions were bestowed upon the young people who had just launched on the sea of wedlock—just as much so then as it is to-day. Generally, these attentions were often of a more forcible than elegant nature. One of the greatest commotions that ever disturbed the equanimity of the Homer people, and one which threatened to create serious disturbances in the colony, was caused by a jubilee indulged in by a number of young people, in honor of a wedding. A young couple had been united in marriage in the summer of 1856. The young men of the neighborhood decided to give them the customary *charivari*, or “belling.” On the night appointed, the “boys” gathered, twenty or thirty strong, arrayed in fantastic dress, and equipped with tin pans, bells, “horse-fiddles,” and various other instruments, to make hideous noises. The house of the father of the bride, in which the young couple were staying, was surrounded by the “bellers” in the evening. After darkness had set in, and the tumult commenced, shot-guns were fired, and a live goose





was thrown into the bridal chamber. The "belling" was done up in "grand and good old style," as one of the participants related. The event would have been forgotten in a short time, and nothing serious would have come of it, if the irate father-in-law of the young husband had not sworn vengeance upon the gay and troublesome disturbers. On the next day, the old gentleman had State warrants of arrest issued for all the young men whose names he had learned. Fifteen or twenty of the "bellers," some of them mere boys, were arrested under a charge of riot and destruction of property. Preliminary hearings were had, and the boys were bound over in bonds of \$1,000 each, all of which was promptly furnished by resident property-holders. The affair now assumed serious proportions to the people who had become entangled, and there were very few people who did not take sides one way or another, though by far the larger part stood by the boys, and were bound, cost what it might, to see them safely through. Eminent counsel were employed on either side, and, at the coming session of the Common Pleas Court at Medina, the people of Homer moved in a long caravan, by four-horse teams, with streaming banners, in vehicles of all kinds, and on horseback, toward the county seat. The trial continued for several days, amidst the greatest excitement, and ended up with the acquittal of the young men. In long line of procession, the young men, with their hosts of friends, who had accompanied them to the trial, returned to their homes in Homer, singing and shouting. For many days, this affair remained the chief topic of conversation of the Homer people. The plaintiff in this singular case was finally compelled to sell out his estate on account of the expenses of the case. The cost of proceedings and attorneys' fees amounted to several thousand dollars. He quitted the neighborhood and moved out West.

It is not definitely known at what time or by

whose suggestion the town was named. It is surmised that one of the itinerant ministers who visited the colony in its earlier days, proposed to the people to name it after the poet Homer, of whom he was a warm admirer. This suggestion was probably accepted by the organizers of the township. It was not many years after the township had been organized and the Center had been quite well colonized, that a petition was sent to the United States Post Office Department, to have the village set apart as a post office. The petition was granted, and an office was established at the Center. By order of the Department at Washington, a bi-weekly mail route was run from Harrisville to the new post office. Milan Beaman was the first mail-carrier between the two points, and he continued in the service for several years, until the mail route was changed, and Homer-ville became one of the stations on the line running from Wooster to Wellington. Henry P. Camp was the first Postmaster in the village. He was succeeded by A. G. Newton.

The first mercantile business was opened by Asa Baird. He brought a small stock of goods, consisting of a small line of dry goods, linen, thread, twine, a few boots, shoes, hats and caps, and a small variety of sugars, teas, coffees and spices. He also established an ashery. In 1845, Henry P. Camp opened a small country store, in a little, new frame dwelling at the center of the village. The next firm in the business world of Homerville was that of Ainsworth & Newton; this was a branch establishment of the business conducted by this firm at Lodi. In recent years, A. G. Newton has been the leading, and, during different years, the sole, merchant in the village. He runs a neat, well-constructed business house, and it is the village store par excellence. The village post office is connected with the store, with the proprietor as Postmaster.

Scarcely more extensive than the commercial affairs of the township, are its manufacturing



developments. A water-mill for sawing wood was established as early as 1839, in the southeast part of the town, along Black River. Edwin Oberlin was the builder and proprietor. He was largely assisted by the settlers, who furnished timber and hauled it to the mill-site. A grist-mill on a small scale was attached to this a few years later. In 1840, John Barnes and James Freeman built a saw and grist mill a few miles east of the Center. Eight years after this, Samuel Stine and Gabriel Moyer had a mill erected on the West Salem road, one and one-half miles south of the Center. In 1850, Henry Camp built the old steam saw-mill now located near the village of Homerville. A few trade and repair shops have been conducted at the village at various times.

The discovery of galena in the river bed in the western part of the township, in 1847, led to considerable excitement among the inhabitants, and this extended beyond and to other parts of the county. The excitement was wrought to a high pitch, and rumor soon had it, that a rich silver mine had been discovered in the township. People came flocking in from every side and the little crystallized cubes in the gray bed-rock of the river were looked upon with wonder and astonishment. A lead and silver mining company was organized forthwith, through the efforts of several of the enthusiasts, and a large tract of land leased along the river bottom. Joseph Hibbard, a farmer living in Harrisville, was the real mover in the undertaking, and entered into the enterprise with all the vim and capital at his command. He was assisted by P. Holt, Leander Baldwin and Samuel Vanderhoof. These four together, formed the company. Digging was commenced at a point, forty or fifty rods above the bridge that spans Black River, on the Lodi and Homerville road. The work was prosecuted for several weeks amidst great excitement; but nothing more than what is known as "scabs" among the miners of the West, was

found. The enterprising diggers, were, after awhile, convinced of this delusion in hunting for precious metals in this neighborhood. With this conviction, the work was abandoned. Twenty years later, there was another lead and silver flurry among the people of Homer and Harrisville Townships, but nothing more except the digging of two or three small holes came of it, and since that time, no more has been said of it. By many of the people in the neighborhood it is considered as a good joke.

The pursuits of the Homer people are strictly agricultural. No railroad crosses its territory, and no effort has ever been made by its people to secure a line.

The soil of the township is highly productive, and the crops, in quantity and quality, that are taken from it, will compare quite favorably with any of the townships in the county. Wheat and corn are the chief cereal products. Stock-breeding forms one of the prominent features of the farming pursuits of the Homer husbandmen. In later years, many of its farmers have drifted into the dairy business, which, at the present date, has become a very profitable undertaking. A cheese factory was established by the Vanderhoof Brothers in the winter of 1871, in the western part of the township, on the banks of Black River, and operations commenced the following year. It is now one of the many factories which are conducted by Hoir, Warner & Co., of Wellington. Most of the farmers in the northern part of the township are patrons of factories in Spencer, which also belong to the company above referred to. These factories are run on the creamery plan; that is, making cheese and butter. The level stretches through the township are well adapted for grazing purposes, and, through this fact, more than anything else, the manufacture of cheese and butter forms one of the most prominent parts in the agricultural life of the Homer people.

Some years ago, from 1830 or thereabouts,





to 1854 and 1855, the North American passenger pigeon made the area of land lying in Homerville, Spencer and Harrisville Townships, their annual roosting-places in the spring. They came in large flocks, in countless numbers, and literally took possession of the woods. They built their nests, a few small sticks put together, and remained in the locality during the hatching season, raising their young. In many cases, before the young pigeons had become full-fledged, they would tumble out of their nests, and, for a short time, the ground would be literally strewn with them. The fat young birds made a luscious diet for the farmer's hogs, which were, in those days, rooting out their existence in the woods. In the years from 1850, this area on which the birds were nesting became the rendezvous of pigeon-hunters from the East, with headquarters at Lodi. The pigeons were killed by the thousands and shipped to markets in the East. In later years, these birds have abandoned this territory as a nesting-ground, though they stop here now occasionally for feeding purposes, but in greatly diminished numbers.

Public worship commenced among the people of Homer colony with the days when their first homes were established in the new land. Prayer-meetings were first held in the little cabins, by the glimmer of burning logs on the rude hearth. Hymns of praise and devotion were sung with earnestness and holy resignation, by fathers, mothers, wives and children. The home of Isaac Vanderhoof, standing on an open bluff on the bank of Black River, in the west part of the township, was the place where the sturdy pioneers oftenest congregated to offer up their religious consecrations. As many as twenty and thirty people gathered at times, during the years 1833 and 1834, to participate in the devotional exercises. Circuit riders from the Wellington and Black River Circuits called at the settlement and conducted these meetings, very simple though they were,

but no less impressive to the hearts of the worshipers than the most ornate and pompous church services of the present day. Isaac Vanderhoof was the leading spirit in these religious movements. In the fall of 1834, an organization on the broad plan of the Methodist Episcopal Church creed was effected. The first communicants in the colony in this church organization, were Isaac Vanderhoof and his wife, Elizabeth Mattison, Betsey Kelley and Mrs. Roxy Vanderhoof, the wife of Samuel Vanderhoof. Regular church services were held from that year on, in the log schoolhouse which stood in the neighborhood where these people resided. For the first few years after organization, regular meetings were held only once every four weeks. The Rev. James Kellum was the first stated minister of this congregation. This was in the years 1835 and 1836. In 1837, the Rev. Mr. Morey was the visiting minister in the colony. He was followed by the Rev. John Kellum. From 1840 forward, the Rev. Hugh L. Parish, of Wellington, had charge of this church organization, until, in 1843, when he was followed by the Rev. Mr. Reynolds and the Rev. John Hazzard, of West Salem. The meetings were now held every other Sunday, but they continued in the little schoolhouse in the Vanderhoof district until in the year 1861, when the present church edifice of this society was erected at the center of the village of Homerville. It now belongs to the West Salem charge of the Wooster District of the Northern Ohio Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Religious services are now held every Sunday. On the church record are now given the names of over one hundred members.

Some religious movements were made by the settlers in the northwestern part of the township, immediately after its first settlement. These people belonged to the Protestant Methodist Church. James Pennywell and Thomas Alberts were the leaders in these movements.



The meetings were held in private houses, and for a time in the schoolhouse in that section. At irregular intervals, itinerant ministers made calls there, and preached the Gospel to the people. No permanent organization was ever effected, and after a few years the meetings were entirely discontinued. Some of these settlers and their descendants have joined the Methodist Episcopal society at the Center Church.

Some of the settlers in the southwest part of the township, in conformity to the faith of their ancestors, organized in the year 1840, in union with Harrisville people of the same faith, a Presbyterian Church society, at Crawford's Corners, and maintained it separate and distinct for a term of five years. The Rev. Vernon Noyes was the officiating minister during this time. After that, they disbanded the organization, and nearly all of them joined the Presbyterian society located at West Salem, three miles distant in Wayne County.

The religious belief and training that had been inculcated in the German settlers at their homes in Pennsylvania, manifested itself, in its outward form, soon after their advent in the new settlement in Homer. The few families that were at first in the settlement, gathered at one of the houses, and worship was held there. This occurred regularly from time to time, though at no time did their gatherings reach a larger number than a dozen. The grand old German hymns, in the native tongue of Martin Luther, were sung in earnest tones; these informal meetings were held at the houses of Eli Garman and John Miller; and not unfrequently, during the summer days, they were held in a barn or in the open woods. When the first settlement of five or six families had been augmented to fifteen or twenty, by new arrivals, a church organization was effected in the summer of 1837. A plat of ground, where now the church edifice of this society is located, was leased by Eli Garman and John Miller, and in 1838 a little log church was erected there-

on. In conformity to the old German custom of the Vaterland, the churchyard was used as a burial-ground for the deceased members of the church families. The first person buried in this ground, even before a church had been built upon it, was, a young son of Eli Garman, who had died in the winter of 1837. The Rev. Johan Shuh, located as Lutheran minister in a German settlement in Orange Township, Ashland County, preached the funeral sermon. After the little log church-house had been erected in 1838, regular services commenced, and were held every alternate Sabbath day. The Rev. Mr. Shuh officiated as the Pastor, and the organization joined, as a separate parish, the General Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. The services were entirely conducted in German during these days. The first minister was afterward succeeded by the Rev. August Beckerman. The present church building, which is one of the largest in Medina County, was erected in the year 1855, on the site of the old log house which had been removed. Regularly stationed ministers were then retained, and the society grew in prosperity and influence. Over fifty families belonged to the church, and its membership embraced over three hundred persons. (As infant baptism is one of the sacramental doctrines of this denomination, the young are classed as regular members.) In 1862, a local schism broke out in this society and caused a separation. The seceding members formed a separate church organization, and connected with the "Joined Synod" of the German Reformed Church of Ohio. They erected a house of worship, one mile west of the old building, and commenced regular church services. The members of the new church were Dennis and George Miller, John Shelhart, Andreas Billman, John Bennader, Jacob Fursahl, Phillip Rice, John Rice, Adam Koons, Solomon Heiman, Jacob Nasal, Leonard Hummert and Henry Hauk. The Rev. Carl Wently, of Phil-





adelphia, Penn., was the first officiating clergyman of this society. He located in the settlement for a number of years. The church services, which at first were exclusively conducted in the German language, are now conducted in both English and German.

Another church society established in Homerville, is the Evangelical (Albrights). It was organized in 1865, by Benjamin Weatherstine, John Herkey, Tobias Heberly, David Frank and Esther Beavelhammer. This is merely an adjunct of the church society of that name located in West Salem, and ministers of the latter society are supplied to the Homer society. An edifice was constructed in 1865, at the Center of Homerville, and meetings have been held regularly since that year. Yearly revival meetings are held in this church, and the outward signs of religious enthusiasm generally run high.

The society of Dunkards—or "Füswäscher, as they were originally called in Germany, by the originator of the creed, Alexander Mack—forms a considerable portion of the church history of Homer Township. A few of the members of this faith had settled in the township in the years from 1845 to 1850. The first of these settlers were Samuel Hart and Joseph Rittenhouse, who had come from the Dunkard settlement near Germantown, Penn. Others came and settled with their families near them. True to their faith, they soon evidenced a desire to profess in the regular and accepted formula of their belief. Meetings were instituted at private houses and in barns. Their quaint and peculiar services were conducted in these places for a number of years. During the regularly appointed Pentecostal meetings of this sect, which occur in the spring and fall of each year, these Homer people would journey to a Dunkard settlement near Ashland, and participate in the religious festivities of a love-feast and "feet-washing." In the year 1870, a Dunkard meeting-house, very plain in its architect-

ural finish, was erected through the efforts of the leading members of the church, and regularly appointed meetings commenced, Joseph Rittenhouse and Samuel Garver officiating as ministers. The people of the faith, who are scattered about in the neighboring townships of Chatham, Harrisville, Westfield and Sullivan, come here to worship. Aside from the striking simplicity of their church services, these people, in their daily walks of life and every-day habits, abstain as much as possible from interference with worldly affairs. They are exceedingly plain in their dress, and eschew the pleasures of the world.

Equal in general interest to political affairs of a civil corporation is the origin, rise and development of the system of education; and, here in Homer, schools commenced as they did in the other pioneer settlements in this great land of the West. In many instances, the place of teaching the young minds was the rude log cabin of a settler, and some kind-hearted soul, father or mother or grown-up daughter, volunteered their services to instruct the young. Then a small log hut, with logs for seats, no light except through the open door and an aperture in the wall. Such an one was the first in Homer Township of which we have any knowledge. It was built in 1833, and stood on the site of the present neat, well lighted and ventilated schoolhouse, about two and one-half miles southeast of the center of Homer.\* James Park, a son of Squire John Park, the pioneer of the Township, a young man then about twenty-three years of age, was the first tutor. He dealt out instruction in the rudimentary branches of learning at this schoolhouse for a number of years, and acquitted himself in a very creditable manner. His wages, which had been at first only 75 cents per week and board, had been increased to \$12 per month in the second year of his teaching. A few years after the establishment of this

\* What is now known as the Duncan Williams Schoolhouse.





schoolhouse, another was built in the Vanderhoof District, one and one-half miles north. Miss Lucretia Youngs was the first teacher in this district. In 1837, a schoolhouse, after the primitive pattern of pioneer schoolhouses, and identical in its make-up to its two predecessors, was erected at the center of the township. William Potts, here as the first, assumed the functions of a pedagogue. In the course of two or three years, several more schoolhouses were erected in the township; one in the northwest corner, and one in the German settlement, in the northeast. The first subdivision of school districts was made in 1837, and a township Board of School Directors was created. There were then five school districts. In 1842, a redivision was made, and the number of districts was increased by two, making seven, the present number of districts in the township. When young James Park, in the spring of 1833, first assumed the functions as public instructor in the colony, there were just four-

teen scholars. Only nine responded with their presence on the opening day of school. Very much in accordance with the ill-constructed architectural make-up of the little school cabin was the daily routine of teaching and the textbooks used from which to draw the rivulet of learning. At the first enumeration of the school children between the ages of six and twenty in Homer Township, made in 1833, there were found 14. Two years later, there were 27. In 1840, the number of children of the proper school age was 229; ten years later, it reached 479. Since that date, the number has retrograded with the general population of the township to 210. To-day, there are seven schoolhouses in the township, supplied with all the advantages of a modern, well-regulated schoolhouse; neat and cleanly within, attractive in their outward appearances; healthful places, where the young children congregate, and a proper stimulus is given to their young minds.

## CHAPTER XXV.

LA FAYETTE TOWNSHIP—PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION—CHIPPEWA LAKE—DRAINAGE AND IMPROVEMENT—MILLING INTERESTS—GROWTH OF VILLAGES—EDUCATION AND RELIGION.

**A**MONG the foreigners who came from Europe to the assistance of the British Colonies in America during the Revolution, was a young man whose name and fame, like those of Washington, will be green forever in the memory of the people of the United States. This young nobleman was the Marquis de La Fayette. He saw the wrong done the American Colonies, and, with soul burning with indignation, he resolved to risk his life and fortune in assisting them to attain their independence. After a bloody eight years' war, he saw the British hosts retire, and, full of joy at the success of the colonies against

such fearful odds, he returned to the land of his birth, to pass the remainder of his days. After the lapse of many years, he resolved to visit the country which, like a star, was rising in beauty in the West, and whose freedom he had struggled to secure. With grateful hearts, the nation turned out to do him honor, and gave him an ovation accorded but few men in the history of the world. He has long since passed away; but his memory grows brighter with each succeeding decade; and the mention of his name, like the glad notes of the spring bird returning from the genial sky of Southern climes, will meet a wel-



coming sentiment in every American heart as long as the nation lives. Cities, villages, counties and towns are named in his honor, and are ever-living monuments to his memory. Thus it was, that, when the township was organized, the County Commissioners, at the suggestion of the settlers then residing within its limits, bestowed upon it the name of La Fayette.

The township is five miles square, and the soil, for agricultural purposes, is second to that of no other portion of the county. Year after year, the same kind of grain can be raised upon the same piece of land, without any appreciable decrease in quality or quantity. The soil in the vicinity of the lake is largely alluvial, having been washed in by frequent rains through a long period of years. Extending north from the lake is a broad valley, that rises gradually in height until it reaches the northern limits of the township, where it terminates in a succession of hills that characterize the height of land which separates the Ohio River and Lake Erie Valleys. The northern tier of lots is almost wholly drained by branches of Rocky River, while the remainder of the township, except a portion of the western side, slopes toward Chippewa Lake. The valley above the lake was once an almost impenetrable swamp, which, before the advent of the pioneers, was the resort of large number of Indian trappers and hunters. After the township had become quite well populated, it was soon evident that the swamp, before many years, would be drained and reclaimed by the agriculturist; but no decisive action was taken until some twelve years ago, when the drainage of the broad valley became a county matter. The County Commissioners took control of the movement, and each man living in the valley was assessed in money and labor in proportion to the amount of land he owned that would be benefited by the drain-

age. Some living far up the valley, whose farms were well drained before the movement came into effect, were assessed at what they considered extortionate rates. Additional drainage would afford them no benefit, and many looked upon their assessments as outrageous, and no little grumbling was incited by the action of the Commissioners. The theory of the latter was that, inasmuch as all the land—hills and vales—lying within the valley, would be drained by prospective artificial trenches, each man should contribute something toward the expense of extensive drainage. One large ditch, four or five feet deep and about twenty feet wide, was to be dug north from the lake through the center of the valley, for a distance of over two miles. Many lateral ditches were to be excavated from the sides of the main one, and each man was given a section to dig, according to his assessment. A large trench was also to be made south of the lake, in order to lower the waters of the lake, and thus reclaim a portion of its bottom. Accordingly, about twelve years ago, largely through the tireless efforts of William R. Goodin, all being in readiness, under the management of a county agent, the citizens were called out and the work began. The ditch and its branches were completed in due time, and the system of drainage is the most extensive and complete in the county. About \$15,000 in money and labor were expended, and already the wisdom of the movement is apparent, as the large body of land reclaimed has increased over 100 per cent in value, thus increasing the value of the taxable property in the county several thousand dollars. About two-thirds of the lake lie within the township limits. The bottom and banks are muddy, and, in times of high winds, the water becomes turbid over the entire lake. The approaches are gradual, and the water bordering the shore is shallow. A dense growth of sedges, bul-





rushes, and other semi-aquatic plants, covers the margin and extends out some distance into the water. Several varieties of fishes are found in the lake, among which are black bass, pike, perch, bull-heads and suckers. At certain seasons of the year, seiners come and carry away large quantities of nice fish. Notwithstanding the natural inconveniences and obstructions which surround the lake, inasmuch as it is the only body of water of any consequence in the county, it is a great resort for skating, picnic and pleasure parties of all kinds. The lake varies in depth from a few feet to sixty feet, and is thus able to float vessels of the largest size. In comparatively late years, pleasure grounds have been fitted up on its banks, appropriate buildings have been erected, and sail and steam vessels of various sizes have been launched upon its waters. One steam vessel, capable of carrying over a hundred persons, "plowed" the lake for a number of years, but was finally disabled and removed. During the summer months, sail and row boats may be seen cleaving its waters, but, when wind storms appear, these vessels are safer moored at the shore. Boats are kept in readiness, by several parties, to rent to pleasure-seekers. In the winter months, when the ice is good, skating parties come to the lake, and often hundreds may be seen sweeping across the frozen fluid like the wind, endeavoring to outdo each other in swiftness and skill. The lake has been the scene of several tragedies. In 1857, a party of young men hired a boat and rowed out on the lake to bathe. While sporting in the water, one of their number, who had dived, was suddenly missed. Search was immediately instituted, and, although assistance was obtained from the shore, the body of the young man, whose name was Henry Streeter, was not recovered until about 1 o'clock that night. The body was finally found in eight feet of water, and at

a considerable distance from the spot where it went down. In 1843, a young man named Thomas Kennedy, while bathing in the lake, became entangled in the weeds near the shore while under the water, and was drowned. Strange to say, these are the only accidents that have occurred. From the number who frequent the lake and venture upon it, an unusually small percentage have met with accident. Chippewa Lake received its name from a tribe of Indians that once lived upon its banks. In early years beaver and otter were found, but these shy animals have long since disappeared. Mink and muskrat are the only animals caught at the lake whose fur is worth preserving. Large quantities of ice are taken from the lake during the winter season, and stored in neighboring ice-houses, to be devoted to the use of pleasure-seekers during the summer and for transportation, by rail, to distant points. It is stated by old settlers that the lake is not as deep by twenty feet as it was sixty years ago. Two or more causes have contributed to decrease the depth: The deposition of soil in the lake by the streams that feed it, and the greater depth of the artificial outlet. Should the shallowness now being produced continue at its present rate of increase, the lapse of a century will permanently injure this sheet of water. It is thought, however, that, from the fact that the inlets and outlets are firmly established, possibly beyond any material alteration, the depth of the lake will remain as it now is for a long and indefinite length of time. This little body of water has an unwritten history that will remain shrouded in the obscurity of the distant past. Over its wave, the light canoe of the Indian hunter swept along, and in its murky water the panting deer plunged to escape the sharp fangs of the wolf or bear. Wild birds circling to the earth from the silent depths of the air, sought its cool waters.



Who will venture to say that the Mound Builders have not utilized the lake and its surroundings for their mysterious purposes? These are questions that can be answered only by the past—the past which remains as silent as the tomb of man.

The first settlers, so far as any knowledge can be obtained, traditional or otherwise, were roving hunters, who squatted temporarily for the purpose of trapping and hunting in the vicinity of the lake. Traditions are in circulation that, immediately after the war of 1812, rude bark shanties could be seen on both the eastern and the western side of the lake. These shanties are said to have been covered, inside and out, with the furs of the mink, beaver and otter, and it is stated that the homely features of a tall backwoodsman could be seen at one of them. Who these hunters were, and when they squatted in the township, are matters wholly within the province of conjecture. When they left the neighborhood of the lake, is unknown. Their presence there, however, soon after 1815, is well authenticated by those early settlers in other townships, who saw them. As soon as the war closed, and all apprehension of danger from savages had passed away, hundreds of resolute men who had been reared in the wilderness, where fierce wild animals were every-day sights, pushed out into the trackless wild-wood to make a living by the arts of hunting and trapping. Undismayed by the numerous dangers that hemmed them in, they kept on in advance of the border settlements, and the presence of half a dozen neighbors within twice as many miles, was a decisive signal to push farther into the depths of the forests. It thus occurred that, some time prior to 1820, what roving hunters there were living in La Fayette, left the township. From 1818 to 1832, the territory composing La Fayette, was attached

to Westfield. So far as known, no permanent settler located in the township until after 1820. The precise date cannot now be ascertained, and neither is the name of the first settler known. It is likely that William Bissett was the first permanent settler in the township. He erected a double log cabin on the farm now owned by L. D. Finney, as early as 1825, and for many years, kept a sort of public house. The roving hunters, living in the township and the unsettled forest west, often came to his cabin for accommodations. Westfield Township had been settled many years previously, and the settlers there in going to Medina, were compelled to go directly north, and pass the cabin of Bissett to escape the bottomless bogs in the lake valley. This circumstance early led to the location of a somewhat circular road through the township, being the same as the present Medina and Westfield road. It is stated, that, for several years after 1825, Bissett's cabin was the only dwelling on the road, in La Fayette, between Westfield and Medina. At that time the township was frequented by wandering herds of deer, and numerous wolves, bears, and other fierce animals. The settlers from Harrisville came to the lake to hunt and fish, and many a hard fight was had in its vicinity with the larger animals, which hunters were slow and cautious to attack. It is related that Amos Hubbard, an early settler, often told on himself the following story: He had been to Medina, and had started for home so late in the afternoon that he was overtaken by intense darkness before he had gone three miles. To add to the solemnity of the scene and the apprehensions of fear in the breast of Mr. Hubbard, a heavy wind began to sweep through the dark forest, and the deep notes of distant thunder heralded an approaching storm. For a week or two previously, several panthers had been seen prowling around the pig-sty of Mr.





Bissett, watching for an opportunity to carry off one of the animals. As morning approached, they retired to the swamps, where they remained concealed till night again appeared, when they once more began their nocturnal journey to Mr. Bissett's pig-sty. These stories also added to the fears of Mr. Hubbard. He traveled on as fast as he could through the dark woods, and, having reached a spot about a mile northeast of Bissett's cabin, he suddenly heard a strange noise near him. He paused, and could distinctly hear some heavy animal walking slowly on the leaves but a few rods to his right. Filled with direful misgivings, Mr. Hubbard hastily sought a tree of convenient size, which he hastily ascended and ensconced himself in the thick foliage, waiting anxiously for the pending danger to manifest itself. The strange sounds were frequently repeated during the night, and occasionally came quite close to the foot of the tree; but the darkness was so intense that not an object could be seen. Mr. Hubbard remained in the tree, shaking and chattering with cold, until the gray light of approaching day had sufficiently advanced to reveal to the astonished eyes of the crestfallen man, a yoke of oxen that had strayed away from Mr. Bissett, and had wandered and fed around the tree wherein the frightened traveler had taken refuge. The strange noise had been caused by the oxen as they cropped the leaves, twigs, and scanty herbage growing in the woods. It is stated that Mr. Hubbard did not relate the occurrences of that eventful night until the lapse of time had greatly detracted from the merits of the joke. Within the next five years after the erection of Mr. Bissett's cabin, there came into the township the following settlers, most of whom located on farms near that of Mr. Bissett: Vivalda Wood, Ephraim Harris, Henry C. Ransom, Henry F. Hall, Ezekiel Slater, Anson Bella-

my, Chanecy Foote, Isaiah Allen and Shadrach Doane, Abraham Brooks, Edward Starr, Alexander Barrett, Elijah Hubbard, Milo Loomis, Jeremiah Doty, Matthew Leflingwell and a few others. Prior to 1833, there came in large accessions to the settlers already there, among whom were the following, several of whom, no doubt, came as late as 1840: James Martin, William Walters, Garrett Spitzer, Jonathan Palmer, John Lee, Roswell Williams, Nicholas Spitzer, Daniel Merritt, Thomas Cass, Andrew McDonald, Andrew McCabe, William and John Carlton, Mr. Foster, John Bibbins, Gilbert Thom, William F. Moore, John Maythan, Hiram Wright, Mr. Northrup, Henry Chapin, Earl Moulton, William Bleekman, Olney Allen, Jesse Harrington, Child Childs, Ephraim Rood, Ephraim Coy, James Rise, Mr. Hawkins, Silas Gates, John and Joseph Robb, Alva Averill, A. G. Wightman, John Day, Russell Alger, Salmon Richards, Phineas Needham, John Mead, Daniel and Leonard Field, William Peck, Azariah Eastman, Simpson Simmonds, William Averill, Nathan Wightman, Mr. Chase, E. Dealing, J. Watring, L. M. Pierce, and several others, whose names cannot now be ascertained. In 1840, the township was quite thickly populated. The farms were small, and the rude log cabins were on almost every section. Industries began to arise, frame buildings to go up, and, ere long, what was but a few years before a tangled wilderness became suitable for the habitations of the cultured and refined. Wild animals disappeared, except occasional stragglers that found their way into the township. Wolves remained longer than the others, and during the early settlement were a continual nuisance to those who desired to keep sheep. Sometimes they became so bold from hunger, as to approach quite close to the cabins, where they would howl dismally until morning. One





day three small boys—William Doane, Solon Harris and W. E. Moulton—were sent through the woods to the cabin of a neighbor about two miles west, to get a quantity of butter. While they were returning, they suddenly heard several wolves howl behind them, and, glancing back, saw three or four of the fierce creatures coming on the run directly down the path toward them. W. E. Moulton was so young that he was unaware of the danger he was in, and, seeing the wolves coming swiftly toward him, wanted to wait and see the yelping animals that were following him; but his companions, who were older, realizing to some extent the danger, hurried him toward home at the top of his speed. The wolves howled at every jump as they ran, and soon, from all parts of the forest, for a mile or more, an answering chorus was begun. While the boys were running along the rough path at their best pace, a deer suddenly leaped to its feet within a few rods of them, and bounded off through the forest. A pack of the wolves took its trail and followed it, with what success is unknown. The boys, now thoroughly aroused, were soon at Mr. Moulton's clearing, and the wolves, fearing to continue the pursuit farther, withdrew, but they continued to howl, probably with disappointment, for half an hour after the boys were safe in Mr. Moulton's cabin. Had the boys not reached the clearing as they did, they would undoubtedly have furnished a repast for the ravenous wolves. This event transpired about 1835, and shows the condition of the township at that time, relative to the presence of wild animals. The wolves became so great a nuisance that it was finally resolved to institute a circular hunt to rid that portion of the county of the pests. Accordingly, on a given day, a large number of men surrounded the township of Chatham, and began to march toward a common center; but, from some cause

unknown, the line became broken, and all the animals except a few foxes escaped. So great became the raid against the wolves, however, that in a few years they had disappeared from the township.

The territory comprising the township was owned, in 1830, by Apollos and T. B. Cook, Lucy Day, S. and T. Fowler, Elijah Hubbard, Lemuel Moffatt, Samuel Moffatt's heirs and William N. Sill. The Fowlers owned the greater part of Tract 2. Sill's and Hubbard's possessions lay in Tract 1, and the others were mostly confined to Tract 3. An abstract of the title to any lot of land in the township reveals the name of one of the above persons as the early owners. The township was probably first surveyed in 1818, though subsequent to that time, and prior to 1832, it was listed and taxed as belonging to Westfield, to which it was attached. As was before stated, the township was regularly organized and named in 1832, with the election of the following officers; Abraham Brooks, Justice of the Peace; Ephraim Harris, Clerk; Vivalda Wood, Treasurer and Supervisor; Alexander Barrett, Anson Bellamy and Vivalda Wood, Trustees. The office duties were so light that Mr. Wood was honored with three distinct offices, and the Justice was required to do duty as a Constable. The names of voters at the first election were as follows: William Bissett, David Ransom, Ezekiel Slater, Anson Bellamy, Henry F. Hall, Henry C. Ransom, Vivalda Wood, Alexander Barrett, Ephraim Harris and Edward Starr. This is the list taken from the poll-book, but it does not comprise one-half the settlers then residing in the township. It is likely that, from the fact that the offices afforded but little pay and were considered more of a nuisance than otherwise, but few of the settlers were office-seekers. What a change the lapse of half a century has wrought in this respect in the minds of the



citizens! Now the appetite for office is rarely appeased, and the man who shuns official position is a *rara avis* among the children of men.

Soon after 1830, several saw-mills were erected in La Fayette. It is likely that William Bissett erected the first not later than 1835. The mill was located on the farm now owned by L. D. Phinney, and was a small frame structure, with an up-and-down saw. A dam was built across the creek, which served to bank up sufficient water to enable the saw to run some five or six months of the year. In times of drought, it remained idle from lack of water. At the expiration of ten or twelve years, a sudden flood swept away the dam, and the mill was allowed to stop. A few years after the erection of the Bissett Mill, Jacob Miller and Jacob Hill erected another, a short distance above, on the same creek. It was also a framed mill, and was run in the usual manner by water-power. The dam was largely built of mud, and, in times of freshets, was a source of infinite trouble to the owner, who was compelled to watch and work night and day to prevent its being washed away. The mill was located at a bend of the stream, where advantage was taken of natural milling facilities. The mill-pond was large, and the pressure of water upon the small dam, in times of floods, was enormous, and was, undoubtedly, the cause, in times of high water, which, at least, contributed to the frequent breakage of the dam. The mill did good work for some twelve or fifteen years, when it was abandoned and the saw removed. Joseph Watring, a sawyer of long experience, erected a saw-mill about 1844, on the same creek, above the mills of Bissett and Miller. In early years, the stream, though small, furnished excellent water-power for mills, as its narrow channel and descent afforded abundant opportunity to build dams of great

strength. Mud dams were found too frail to resist the action of the water, and were accordingly strengthened by stone and timber abutments erected on the lower side. Notwithstanding all this, however, the dam was often swept away. The owners soon learned wisdom by experience, and built dams that could withstand any volume of water likely to sweep down the creek. The Watring Mill was a good one, and under the management of its able owner, turned out large quantities of sawed lumber, at prices ranging from \$2 to \$3.50 per thousand, or one-half of the logs. Settlers with but little money were compelled to adopt the latter method in paying for their lumber. The fourth saw-mill on this creek (which should be named Mill Creek) was built by Mr. Ross. It resembled the others in design, and in all essential particulars was identical. These mills received a large patronage from other townships, and all were thus enabled to afford the owners a profitable revenue. None of them could run longer than five or six months of the year, and most of them were operated day, night and Sundays, as long as the water lasted. One night, after a heavy rain, Mr. Ross was out watching his dam, and to see that his logs were not carried down the stream, when, upon passing near his corn-field, he suddenly came upon two men, who had a bushel basket, and seemed to be intent on the unlawful business of stealing corn, whereupon, it is related, the following conversation took place: "What in the devil are you doing in my corn-field?" "Cooning." "Yes, cooning in a corn-field with a bushel basket! Do you get many?" Here, unfortunately, the narrator ended his tale, the remainder of which is in danger of falling into forgetfulness. It is probable that the sequel will show, that, after the event narrated, the practice of coon-hunting with a bushel basket (or any other kind of a basket) was abandoned.





The four saw-mills on "Mill Creek" were not the only ones early in the township. In 1834 or 1835, Edward Dorsey built a saw-mill in the southeastern part, on a small stream called Burt Creek, from the first settler living on its banks. The motor was water, and the mill was operated successfully by Mr. Dorsey for about a year and a half, when it was sold to Abraham Whiteside. Soon afterward John Robb became the owner. Several additions and improvements increased the operative capacity of the mill, which began to do quite extensive work, with a steadily increasing patronage. After a time, Andrew McDonald purchased an interest in the mill privilege, and soon afterward steam was employed to take the place of water in operating the mill. But, notwithstanding frequent trials, the engine could not be made to work satisfactorily, and, in about 1848, the mill, with a small patronage, passed into the ownership of Joseph Robb and John McDonald, who permitted it to run down. About the time this mill was erected, Andrew McDonald built one on another small creek, about a mile northwest. The mill building was quite a large frame structure, and the dam was constructed of mud, stone and timbers. The framework of the mill was large and strong, and the timbers, many of them as sound as when first prepared, are being used in building a church at the village of Chippewa Lake. Mr. McDonald conducted the mill a few years, when it was permitted to run down, and, as was stated, the owner purchased an interest in the Dorsey Mill.

Jonathan Palmer was probably the first blacksmith to work at the trade in the township. He erected a small log shop on his farm in 1834, and for ten years did considerable work. The next year after his shop was built, a Mr. Holbon, living a short distance north of the Center, built the second blacksmith-shop.

He also did quite a thriving business for a number of years. In about 1842, a number of prominent men in the township concluded that a grist-mill could sustain itself, formed a stock company, and, in accordance with their conclusion, built a large, three-storied frame structure, locating it half a mile south of the Center. A Mr. Barnhart, an experienced miller, was employed by the stockholders to take charge of the mill. But the judgment of the owners as to the self-sustaining capacity of the mill proved to be erroneous, as, notwithstanding the efforts made by them, the patronage secured did not pay a fair percentage on the capital invested. Finally, the company sold the mill to J. O. Simmonds, who soon afterward transferred it to others. After passing through several hands, Mr. Van Orman purchased the machinery, which was removed. The building is at present used as a blacksmith-shop. The building was altered to a two-storied one several years ago. During the early history of the township, the settlers were compelled to go to Akron, Wooster, and other distant places for their flour. Going to mill was an occasion greatly dreaded, for, ordinarily, the roads were poor, and during the spring months practically bottomless. Sometimes an entire week was consumed in the journey, and the cattle or horses suffered severely from the harassing tramp through the mud and mire.

Thomas Cass, one of the earliest settlers, was a wheelwright, and erected a small shop on his farm, where, for a number of years, he manufactured spinning-wheels and various other useful articles, which were sold to his neighbors. His wares were mostly prepared during the winter months and at odd times, and on rainy or stormy days when nothing else could be done. Many of his productions were sold in Medina, and undoubtedly, to-day, the spinning-wheels preserved as curiosities in the garrets of the residences of many of the old settlers



were made by Mr. Case. There were coopers among the early settlers, who made a limited number of kegs, tubs, rude pails and buckets, and barrels, selling them to the neighbors. No distillery has ever cursed the township with its productions. The citizens, many of them, however, "loved to court the society of the ruby god," and were proud of being considered good judges of superior whisky and brandy. Generally, the settlers were sober, temperate, industrious and honest.

The village of Chippewa Lake was laid out and platted in 1873. Sixteen lots were originally laid off, to which several additions have since been made—one in 1877, by Jonathan Palmer, and one in 1880, by Mr. Clark. Almost the first building in the village was one moved in by J. Cotner, in the spring of 1874. This building was immediately occupied by Koppes & Rickard, who placed therein about \$1,500 worth of a general assortment of goods. During the summer, the building now occupied by this partnership was erected, and, the following fall, the stock was removed to the new building. A steady and moderate trade has been given the merchants, sufficient in amount to afford an opening for something more extensive. The stock has been added to until it now is valued at some \$2,000.

In the spring of 1873, largely through the influence of Jonathan Palmer, a post office was established at the village, or, rather, at the residence of Mr. Palmer, who was appointed Postmaster. A year later, Mr. Palmer resigned, and Mr. Koppes, at the village, received the appointment, an office he has retained until the present.

In 1874, Simpson Pomeroy erected a blacksmith-shop, and, about the same time, E. L. Richtell entered into partnership with him, and the two conducted a combined wagon and blacksmith shop. H. Morrison has a small shoe-shop in the village.

Several residences have been constructed, ten or twelve in number, and the village started thus late in the history of the county is destined to become quite populous. It is sufficiently removed from other railroad stations to render it apparent that two or three good stores could not only be self-sustaining, but afford the owners a fair compensation for their labor and capital invested. The proximity of the village to Chippewa Lake, after which it was named, will also add to its attractions. In coming years, the approaches to the lake will be improved, larger and better places of resort will be erected on its shore, pleasure vessels of various kinds will be launched upon its waters, the sedges and grasses growing so luxuriantly along its borders will be removed and possibly replaced, at least, in some places, with stone and gravel, thus providing a suitable beach for those desiring to bathe, and the village will be frequented by pleasure seekers from home and abroad. On the western shore of the lake is an excellent landing of hard clay, which has been there since the earliest times. It is known as the "Indian Landing," and tradition has it that the earth was placed there by pre-historic man. However that may be, it is a safe and convenient approach to the lake, and will, undoubtedly, be utilized in the near future. The lake should be made the home of trout and other varieties of large and valuable fish. All these events will transpire within a comparatively few years, and the villages should begin to make readiness to assume metropolitan airs, as the village will receive a permanent and extensive benefit.

As nearly as can be gathered, no frame building was erected in the village of La Fayette prior to 1840. Earlier than that date as many as ten or twelve log buildings of various sizes, appearances and capacities, had been erected, and were occupied by as





many families. The village, begun as early as 1834, was not compactly built, but the log cabins were scattered along the main street for a distance of eighty rods. It is not remembered that any industry had been started prior to the above date. In about 1840, Joshua Phillips, of Westfield, erected the first frame building in the village. It was a small structure and was intended for a store-room. Soon afterward, a small stock of goods was placed in the room, and Stephen Phillips, a crippled son of Joshua, was given charge of the store. The stock was not worth more than \$200, and was composed largely of whisky. Soon afterward, George Love brought to the village over \$1,000 worth of goods. This was the first store of any consequence, and he kept a general assortment, including dry goods. In 1848, Earl Moulton opened a store, beginning with some \$1,500 worth of a general assortment, among which were groceries and dry goods. He owned a good store and made considerable money. In 1849, he built an ashery, and began the manufacture of pearl-ash and scorched salts, buying his ashes from wherever they could be obtained, and paying at the rate of 6 cents per bushel for field ashes, and 8 cents for those burned in houses. As high as eight tons of pearl-ash were manufactured per annum, and a ready sale was found at Cleveland, at the rate of from \$70 to \$100 per ton. When ready, the ash was loaded on wagons and conveyed to market; the trip consuming several days. A considerable quantity of "scorchings" were also manufactured and sold in a similar manner for about \$48 per ton. The ashery was conducted with fair profits until 1855, when the occupation was discontinued. The second frame building in the village was erected by Dr. Hickox very soon after the Phillips store had been built. This dwelling is located just north of the town hall. Mr. Moulton dis-

continued his store some five or six years after beginning. He lost considerable money through the influence of a man he had trusted, and thought best to sell his stock, which was accordingly done. After the lapse of many years, Mr. Moulton, though eighty years of age, is now in business in the village, with a stock of boots and shoes valued at \$1,000. J. F. Badger purchased Mr. Moulton's stock in about 1853, but, after continuing the mercantile occupation for some two years, closed out his goods at auction. In about 1850, J. O. Simmonds brought several thousand dollars' worth of goods to the village. He kept an excellent store, and for several years commanded a lucrative patronage. It is said that he offered for sale one of the best stocks of goods ever at La Fayette. After a few years his stock and store privileges were purchased by William Kelsey, who, after conducting the business a number of years, was burned out. A Mr. Lampman had an interest in the store at the time it was burned. The building and goods in store were destroyed, and were almost a total loss. George Love sold goods, with varying success, until 1848. His father was also engaged for a short time in the mercantile pursuit in the village. In 1854, or 1855, Miller & Bowman brought in a stock of goods that had been purchased from a Mr. Wirtz, who had closed out his stock in some neighboring village. Their stock was increased, and, two years after coming to La Fayette, they moved into the corner store. Here they did a splendid business during the last war, but, at its close, when goods began to depreciate in value, they sold out to W. B. Chapman, who has conducted the business ever since. Mr. Simmonds engaged in manufacturing potash about a year before Mr. Moulton sold his ashery. He continued the manufacture about two years, but, finding the enterprise unprofitable, it was discontinued.





In autumn, 1847, Mr. Hickox built a saw-mill in the village. It was a large frame structure, located on the side of a steep bluff. The engine was placed in the lower story, together with the furnace, while the saw, an up-and-down one, occupied the upper story, into which the logs were rolled from the bluff. In 1852, R. F. Bissell bought the mill, and some six years later he sold to Carlton & Buchanan. In 1866, Winter Brothers bought the mill, and it is yet under their ownership and management. The mill, since it was first set in operation, has proved more valuable than any other ever in the township. It has turned out large quantities of excellent lumber, and, being operated by steam, it has been enabled to run during the entire year. In 1876, a small pattern of planing machinery was introduced in one apartment, but removed at the expiration of about two years. In 1879, Mr. Winter placed in one apartment set off on the lower story, a single set of stone for grinding grain. This small grist-mill is operated two days of the week. In about the year 1852, Mr. Hickox erected a large frame building near the saw mill, and began the manufacture of blinds, sash, doors, etc. This was quite an important industry, and it soon met with sufficient success to warrant its continuance. The enterprise was conducted with fair profits until 1870, when the building was fitted up and has since been used as a cheese-factory, under the ownership and management of Daniel Fellows and J. L. Wightman. In 1854, the township purchased the Congregational Church, and converted it into a town hall. Prior to that, elections and other town meetings were held in the church, a circumstance not at all relished by the members, who regarded the sanctity of their house violated on every election day. In 1879, the building, which had become quite old and rickety, was remodeled and enlarged. A thick coat of white paint has so altered its appear-

ance that it is now one of the finest buildings in the village.

It was due to the influence of Hon. Earl Moulton, as much as to that of any other man, that the first post office was established in the village. In 1850, an application for the establishment of an office at La Fayette was properly signed, sealed and sent on to the Postmaster General, who gave the desired order. So little was to be paid the carrier that no one desired the position, which was destitute of any allurements except those of honor. Finally, more as a matter of necessity and accommodation than for any other reason, Mr. Moulton consented to carry the mail. In after years, when the value of having the office in stores became apparent, from the fact that trade was improved by those who went after their mail, a change came over the spirits of business men in the village. Every man was extremely anxious to be honored with the position of postmastership, and each was willing to sacrifice considerable to be carrier, in order to gain the coveted prize. Mr. Moulton received the appointment of first Postmaster. Three years later, it was transferred to Mr. Lampman, and soon afterward to another party. From that period until the present, the office has shot back and forth between the rivals for governmental position, like a shuttle across the threads of the warp. The office is not paying, except that it brings trade to the store wherein it is located. Dr. Hickox began the practice of medicine in the village soon after 1840. He was in partnership with Dr. A. W. Rawson. The latter became quite eminent in his profession, and was worked so hard by the sick and afflicted in the township as to injure his health. Himself and partner changed their location in 1850, and the village for several years following was without a follower of Esculapius. After an interval of a few years, Dr. Smith, of Medina, came to the village,



where he remained some two years. He was followed by Drs. Hudson, Foltz, Hoyt, Slatts and Parker. Unlike some other villages in the county, La Fayette has not seen its best days. Improvements are slowly going on, and the present condition of the village is not inferior to that of former years. The energy and business push in any locality depend upon the enterprising character of the citizens and their circumstances regarding finance. This view of the matter leads an observer to the conclusion, that, inasmuch as La Fayette is blessed with both those characteristics in a comparatively limited degree, it is true yet to a sufficient extent to warrant a continuance of growth and a revival of business pursuits discontinued in early years from a lack of patronage.

Wherever civilized men go, schools and churches are sure to follow. They are both the exponents and the originators of enlightened society and progressive intelligence. Destitute of social, educational and religious advantages, society would relapse steadily into barbarism, and a nomadic and practically solitary life would take the place of the one now smiling with hope and promise. How quickly schools and churches dot the landscape when settlements begin to spring up, almost like magic, in the deserted depths of the forest! Each hill and vale becomes the site of an educational or a religious edifice, which, like the human heart, sends its rapid pulsations of wisdom and morals through every artery and vein of the social body. These privileges are the concomitants of early settlement in the backwoods. If pioneers are so few in numbers as to render the erection of a schoolhouse or a church unadvisable, they go to distant localities, where the desired opportunities may be obtained. Usually, some six or eight years elapse after the first settlement, before the first schoolhouse is built. After that, the rapidity of their erection is proportioned to the

rapidity of settlement. It is probable that the first schoolhouse erected in La Fayette Township was a small, unpretending, round-log structure, built and located on the farm of Ephraim Harris, now owned by William Bleekman. It was built in about the year 1831, and was used for a combined schoolhouse, church and town hall. It is stated that the first township election was held in this building. It was built by all the settlers, who turned out and constructed it in one day. It was the understanding, when it was erected, that any and all religious denominations were to have the privilege of assembling there to worship God in their peculiar way; but, ere long, an unpleasant envy or rivalry was incited, which led to angry disputes and a sentiment of religious intolerance. Mr. Harris, upon whose land the building had been erected, had granted the lot to the use of the public so long as it was used for certain specified purposes, otherwise to revert to the owner. He, therefore, thought that he had as much right to direct the uses to which the building was devoted as any other man in the neighborhood. He was a Methodist, and saw with envy that the membership of the Disciple society, which assembled at the building, was outstripping that of his own denomination. Actuated by some sudden freak, he one day posted a notice near the church that, thenceforward, no horses must be hitched to his fence. To retaliate for this unsocial conduct, Mr. Doane, who was a Disciple, and who owned land across the road from the church, posted on his fence that all persons, without regard to the religious denomination to which they belonged, might have the privilege, at all times, of hitching to his posts. No serious outbreak occurred, and the building was used until about 1838. All facts concerning the schools taught here have faded from the minds of the old settlers. The name of that important personage, the first





teacher, is lost in the gloom of the past. In reading the preceding pages, it will be seen that, between 1830 and 1835, large numbers of settlers came in and purchased farms. This rapid settlement led to the immediate erection of several schoolhouses in different parts of the township. The construction of churches was a few years later. In 1830, a log schoolhouse was built at the graveyard, about a mile southwest of the residence of N. G. Wightman. It is not remembered with certainty who was the first teacher, although a Miss Brown and a Mr. Gallup were among the first. The teacher received his pay by subscription, and boarded around. Who can grasp the meaning of the words "boarded around" without having passed through that ordeal in early years, when all the members of a family—some ten or a dozen—occupied the solitary small room of the log-cabin, in which were enacted all the social and domestic relations of the family? Into this room, the unfortunate pedagogue was thrust without ceremony, there to see strange sights and hear strange sounds. This building was used some four years, when a frame structure was erected to take its place. In 1853, the frame was destroyed by fire, and the remainder of the term in progress at the time was taught in a vacant dwelling near by. About a year later, the present frame schoolhouse was erected, nearly half a mile north of the cemetery. The year after the old log house was built at the cemetery, another log school building was erected near where the old grist-mill now stands. The first teacher in this house was Miss Sarah Chase, whose health failed during the progress of the term, and who was compelled to give up the school. The remainder of the term was taught by Miss Elmira Phinney. The school was taught during the winter months, and Miss Phinney was employed to teach a short term the following summer.

This schoolhouse was used until about 1850, when a school building was built at the Center, after which the old house was used for other purposes. A schoolhouse was built quite early in the southwestern part, in what was called the Chase neighborhood. Neither the year the school was taught nor the name of the first teacher is remembered. Miss Jemima Averill taught in this house in 1839. It is related that one of the early lady teachers severely whipped a large boy, who afterward became her husband. This lady could not have been Miss Averill. Miss Chase also taught at the Chase schoolhouse. It is probable that she was the first teacher. The old house was used a few years, and was afterward replaced, successively, at irregular intervals, by several others, each being an improvement on the former. The first school structure in the southeastern part was erected on the farm of John Lee, in 1837. The house was of round logs. Miss Delight Vincent, from Seville, was the first teacher. After she had begun to teach, it was discovered that she had no certificate, whereupon she was taken to the residence of Mr. Chapin, the School Examiner, to see if she was qualified to instruct children. She rode a horse belonging to Mr. Palmer, while that gentleman plodded along in the mud at her side. The lady succeeded in obtaining the desired certificate, and the school was continued. In 1843, a hewed-log schoolhouse was erected where the old frame building now stands. It was used until about 1855, when the last-named building was built. In 1880, the finest school edifice in the township was erected, about forty rods west of the old one, at a cost of some \$800. The Spitzer district was supplied with school advantages in 1836, since which time other houses have been built, to accord with the progressive condition of the neighborhood. About two years after the Harris log schoolhouse was destroyed,



another one was built on Mr. Bleekman's farm, a short distance west of his residence. This school building was attended by children living in the northwest corner, and also by those living north of the Center. The house was a frame, built of lumber sawed at one of the mills on Mill Creek, and costing at the rate of \$5 per one thousand feet. It is said that more young men and women, who afterward taught school, were "graduated" at this house than at any other ever in the township. This house was used until about 1856, when a re-division into school districts made the erection of a schoolhouse in the northwestern part necessary. A school edifice was built in the north-eastern part, at an early day. After a number of years it was burned, and has been succeeded by two others, the last being built about twenty years ago.

La Fayette Township has the reputation of having a greater number of churches, compared with the population, than any other township in the county. In 1834, Rev. Joel Goodell came from abroad by invitation, and preached in the Harris Schoolhouse, and on that day the first religious society—Congregational—was organized. Among the first members were the following persons: Abraham and Asenath Brooks, Ira and Fanny Brooks, Peter Brooks, Tabitha Brooks, Boswell Williams, Martha Lucas, Jeremiah and Susan Doty, Matthew and Eveline Leffingwell, George Wallace, Amelia Doty; Rozetta Doane, and Milo and Lucy Loomis. The society grew in membership and wealth, and, some eight or ten years after their organization, a small church was built, the township assisting in defraying the expense with the understanding that the church was to be used in which to hold township elections, etc. This occasioned considerable dissatisfaction, which continued to increase until 1854, when the Congregationalists built a large, fine frame

church in the village at a cost of about \$2,200. Here they have assembled since. In the year 1835, Rev. William Kellum, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, came to the township, where he preached and organized a class. The members assembled in schoolhouses and other buildings, until 1853, when they erected a frame church a short distance south of the Center, at a cost of \$1,300. This building was occupied by the society until some four years ago, when they sold their church and purchased the one owned by the Baptists, the latter society having become so reduced in membership as to make the sale of their church advisable. The Christian Church was first organized in the year 1837, under the management of Rev. William Moody; and the society, at its beginning, met with considerable opposition from members of the religious organizations already established in the township. Among the first members were Earl Moulton, Azariah Foster, John Bowman and their families, and others. Notwithstanding the opposition to the organization of the society, the membership, in less than three months, was sixty, and this continued to increase. Rev. Mr. Moody was given charge of the society, and, under his energetic control, it grew in strength and grace. Services were held in schoolhouses until about the year 1853, when a large frame church was built at a cost of about \$2,000. The society is doing well at present. The Baptist society was first instituted in about the year 1834. The members for many years were compelled to meet in dwellings and schoolhouses; but the society continued to grow steadily, until finally, in 1853, when the church-building mania swept over the township, a frame church was erected at a cost of \$1,300. Here they continued to assemble until some four years ago, when they sold their church to the Methodists. Some thirty-six years ago the United Brethren or-





ganized a society in the northwest part, and among the first members were the following: Henry Waltz, George Waltz, Robert Eakin, Jacob Miller, Daniel Dobson, W. A. Carlton, C. P. Lance, and their wives, besides several others. They gathered in schoolhouses until 1854, when their church was built at a cost of \$1,000. Rev. Edwin Wood became the first Minister, and Henry Waltz was elected Class-leader. The first Deacons were George Waltz, C. B. Lance and W. A. Carlton. The society has a present membership of eighty. An Old School Presbyterian Society was insti-

tuted in 1850, in the southeast part, by Rev. Varnum Noyes. The first four Deacons were Henry Shane, Thomas Day, William Patton and John Lea. The society has a small church in the eastern part. A United Brethren class was early organized in the same locality, and, though it disbanded at one time, yet it was afterward revived, and is now in prosperous condition. In 1860, no church society in the township had a membership less than fifty-five. This speaks well for the religious interest in La Fayette.











## PART III.

# BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

### MEDINA TOWNSHIP.

S. T. ADAMS, farmer; P. O. Medina; was born in Albany Co., N. Y., July 11, 1817, and when a few months old, his parents removed to Saratoga Co., where they lived about nine years, then removed to Otsego County, where his father began farming on the top of Crumb Horn Mountain (previously he had followed blacksmithing, also did a little at farming). They lived here until May 14, 1832, when they removed to Wattsburg, Erie Co., Penn., where subject lived with his brother-in-law on the farm until 1836. He then took charge of his father's farm located in Girard Township, Erie Co., and managed the same for three years; he then became an assistant on the Engineer Corps, Conneaut line of the Erie extension of the Pennsylvania Canal, and remained on the corps for three years; he next taught for seven months in the public schools of Girard; then clerked in a general store, in Girard, for a few months, after which he came to Warren, Trumbull Co., Ohio, and, in company with his brother-in-law, carried on a dairy business one season; he then clerked one year for Smith & McComb, general merchants of Warren. He then returned to Girard, Penn., where he took charge of a farm belonging to Olan & Wells; also assisted in their store during his leisure moments when the farm did not demand his attention. This business continued for one year, when, owing to an accident with a team, in which his shoulder was injured, he spent the following summer visiting his old home in New York, and in the fall returned to Trumbull Co., Ohio, where his father had removed some time previous and was then residing, and took the management of his father's farm for one year.

His father, in 1837, was sold out, in consequence of an indorsement for a friend, and, from that time until fortune again favored him, S. T. (the subject) turned in all his earnings to the family, his desire being to educate his brothers and sisters. In 1847, his father, having recovered from his reverses, bought a farm at Aurora, which he deeded to his son, in consideration of his past conduct to the family. It was, however, only at the earnest solicitations of the family that he accepted it. He occupied it in the spring of 1847, and May 1, 1848, he was married to Miss Sarah H. Gardiner, in the present house, his father having purchased this place the February previous. After his marriage, he returned to his Aurora farm, where he lived until the spring of 1856, when he sold it and occupied his present place. While at Aurora, he, in company with the Hon. C. R. Harmon, took a contract for building some sections of the Cleveland & Mahoning R. R. The hard times of 1854 delayed the work and finally pushed all the contractors to the wall, and caused them to throw up their contracts. But Mr. Adams was firm in his intention to complete his job, and only succeeded in doing so after the loss of his property; his partner shared his loss, but, being wealthy, could stand it without much inconvenience. After the completion, the railroad company made the firm a present of \$7,600, in stock, in compensation for their loss. He has had nine children born to him, of whom four are living, viz.: Emma V., now Mrs. Fitch, lives on the old homestead; Mary E., now Mrs. Newton, lives in West Richfield, Summit Co.; Jennie M., now Mrs. Fitch, of Medina; William E., lives on the





old homestead. Mr. Adams has always been a Democrat, and, in 1860, was a "War Democrat," and liberal in all measures for the prosecution of the war. In the campaign of 1880, he became Republican in the belief that the Southern branch of the Democratic party would not permit a free ballot, and, this being contrary to his ideas and training, he climbed over on the other side of the political fence; indeed, he has voted the Democratic ticket since the war, under protest, and finally determined to do so no longer, but to seek admission into the Republican fold. He has been a consistent member of the Disciples' Church for the past eleven years, and is active in its support; Mrs. Adams has been a member of the same denomination since she was 11 years old; was baptized in Niagara River at that early age.

P. C. ALCOTT, farmer; P. O. Medina; was born on the farm in New Haven Co., Conn., Dec. 2, 1817. He was brought up on the farm, and received but a limited schooling at the district schools. Aug. 12, 1838, he married Miss Emily Horton, a native of New Haven Co. They came to Ohio in 1838, and settled in Medina, he working in the neighborhood at farming, brickmaking, etc. April 1, 1842, he was called to mourn the death of his wife. By the marriage, there was one child, viz., Esther, now Mrs. H. K. Brace, of Cleveland. Feb. 5, 1846, he married Miss Sarah A. Welton, a native of Medina Co., Ohio. In 1846, Mr. Alcott engaged in the grocery business in Medina, in company with Mr. J. J. Williams; they continued one year, after which Mr. Alcott devoted his time to stock-dealing (cattle), a business he was identified with for upward of twenty years, he frequently driving stock to Dutches Co., N. Y., the trips varying from forty to sixty days. About 1859, he took up his residence in Medina, and has made this his home since. Aug. 8, 1877, Mrs. Alcott died, leaving three children—Mary E., Sarah L., now Mrs. Pomroy, of Medina; and Eva May.

LIBANUS ALLEN, retired, Medina; was born on his father's farm, in Lewis Co., N. Y., May 7, 1810. His early life was spent on the farm and in teaching school. In April, 1834, he came to Ohio in company with his brother; by the canal to Buffalo, thence to Cleveland, by the lake; thence to Medina afoot. Soon after, he bought 78 acres, about one mile southwest of town, on which he built a frame house, prob-

ably the first in La Fayette Township. In July following, he sold out and moved to Wadsworth, where he bought a farm, and lived on the same until 1851, when he sold out and moved to Berea, and the following year they moved to a farm in Brunswick Township, this county, where he lived for twenty-four years, since which time he has lived retired in Medina. Sept. 19, 1835, he married Miss Lora Hard, who was born Jan. 3, 1809, in Franklin Co., Vt., and came with her parents to Summit Co., Ohio, in 1816, and to Medina Co., in 1818. Though but a child at the time, Mrs. Allen remembers going with the family into the yard in Vermont to listen to the cannons firing in McDonough's fight on Lake Champlain. By the marriage, there have been seven children, of whom two are living—William C. B., editor of the *Rural Nebraska*, at Omaha, and Adelaide, now Mrs. H. T. Mead, of Huron Co., Ohio; of the five deceased, three died in infancy while at Wadsworth, one died in Brunswick Township, and the other, Charles E., died in the army in 1863; he was a member of the 5th Company of Sharpshooters. Mr. and Mrs. Allen belong to the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which they have long been members, he since 1832, and she since 1834.

JOSEPH ANDREW, lawyer, Medina; was born in Rochester, N. Y., Oct. 4, 1840. His parents moved to Ohio when he was but 1 year old, and settled on a farm in Sharon Township, Medina Co., where young Andrew grew up, he assisting on the farm and attending school. In September, 1861, he enlisted in the 42d (Garfield's Regiment) O. V. I., he being a private in Company K, and served for two years. He participated in the battles of Middle Creek, Cumberland Gap, Tazewell, Big Springs, Chickasaw Bluffs, Arkansas Post, Vicksburg campaign and the other battles of the regiment up to Champion Hills, where he was wounded, from the effects of which he lost his arm. In the fall of 1863, he returned home and attended school at the Baldwin University at Berea. In the fall following, he was elected Treasurer of Medina Co., and was re-elected in the fall of 1866, serving in all four years. In 1865, he began reading law with Messrs. Blake & Woodward, of Medina, and was admitted to the bar in the fall of 1867. In 1869, he was elected Clerk of the court, which position he held for six years, after which he associated in partnership with Mr. S. B.



Woodward, the firm style being Woodward & Andrew, they continuing at the present time. Oct. 10, 1866, he married Miss Imogene, daughter of Jerome and Emily (Hall) Simmons; she was born in Granger Township, Medina Co., Ohio. They have three children, viz., Vernon R., Imogene C. and Edith.

JAMES H. ALBRO, banker, Medina; was born in Cummington, Hampshire Co., Mass., April 17, 1820. He lived there until 15 years of age, when he came with his parents to Ohio, stopping for one year in Maumee City, and in 1836, removed to Medina, where his father embarked in mercantile business. James H. assisted in the store until he was 22 years of age, when he bought his father's business from the savings of his wages, going in debt for a small balance. He remained two years in Medina, then moved his store to Seville. He continued there two years in company with his father and grandfather as J. Albro & Co., during which time his father built a large frame store where Mr. Boul's store now stands. On the completion of this house, the Seville store was moved to this place, and the firm of J. Albro & Son was formed and continued for twelve years, when James H. again bought out his father. Two years later, he sold out and engaged in other lines of business, viz., dealing in sheep, brokering, etc. The business of broker was continued until 1873, when, in company with Hon. H. G. Blake, he organized the Phoenix National Bank, Mr. Albro as President, a position he still holds. From his first start in life he has been successful. He was married March 12, 1846, to Miss Julia M. Chase; she was born in Medina, Ohio, Aug. 13, 1828. Three children were born of this marriage, two of whom are living—Willis H. and Mary E., now Mrs. Beach, of Medina. Mr. Albro's parents, John and Mary (Bradley) Albro, were natives of Rhode Island and Connecticut, Mr. Albro being born July 9, 1796. They were married in Sutfield, Conn., moved to Massachusetts, and in 1835, moved to Ohio. He died about 1859; she lived in Medina until her death, which occurred May 15, 1880. They had seven children, of whom James H. (our subject) is the only survivor. He has always given his support to the Episcopal Church, of which Mrs. Albro has long been a member.

SAMUEL BOWMAN, farmer; P. O. Medina; was born in Shippensburg, Penn., Aug. 16, 1814—in the same year that the British came to

Baltimore—and is the fourth of a family of ten children, born to John and Jane (Scott) Bowman, who were natives of Pennsylvania and New Jersey. They were married in Pennsylvania, and moved to Virginia probably about the year 1820, and settled in the vicinity of Wheeling, where he followed his trade of blacksmithing. About 1830, they removed to Youngstown, Ohio, where he engaged in farming, a business he followed until his death, which occurred about 1860. His wife died three years previously. Samuel (the subject) lived at home until he was married, an event that took place Aug. 18, 1836, to Miss Caroline H. Stall, a native of Youngstown. She was the second and only survivor of three children, born to George and Elizabeth (Hull) Stall, natives of Ohio and New Jersey. They were married in Ohio, and followed farming near Youngstown, where he died about 1830, and she about 1850. After his marriage, Mr. Bowman (the subject), worked at his trade of ax-making, to which he had served an apprenticeship of two years, beginning when he was 19 years old. He worked some three years at Youngstown. He then went to Garnettsville, where he worked at his trade for Harvey White, remaining with him and working at other points for about sixteen years. He came to Medina the week after the first fire and engaged in the Medina Ax Factory, where he worked about three years. He at first lived in the village, but the third year he bought and occupied his present place, and has lived on it ever since. He has followed farming since the three years spent in the Medina Ax Factory. They have eight children, viz., Frank, hardware merchant, West Salem, Ohio; Albert L., boot and shoe dealer, Akron, Ohio; James S., clerk in a hotel, New York City; Mary, now Mrs. Finch, lives at Anna, Ill.; Ida, now Mrs. Moore, Akron, Ohio; Charles E., printer, Medina; Park W., clerk, Akron, Ohio; Louie B., at home.

G. D. BILLINGS, dentist, Medina; was born in Butler Co., Ohio, Nov. 10, 1842. His early life was spent on the farm. At the age of 17, his folks moved into the village of Oxford, where he finished his schooling, and assisted in his father's broom factory. Sept. 5, 1861, he enlisted in the 50th O. V. I., as a musician, and, the following December, his company was transferred and formed Co. B, 69th O. V. I. After the first term of service of the 69th, he and





some sixty others were transferred to Co. A, 2d O. V. I., serving with that command about two months, when they were returned to the 69th (which had re-enlisted), with which command he served until January, 1865. He was with the regiment in the battles of Stone River, Resaca, Buzzard's Roost, Atlanta, Marietta, Jonesboro, Savannah, Mission Ridge, Atlanta campaign and the "March to the Sea." He received flesh wounds at Stone River and Peach Tree Creek. After his discharge, he returned to Oxford and entered the office of Dr. G. W. Keely, dentist, with whom he remained for two years and four months. He then came to Medina and bought the business of Dr. G. W. Dunn, dentist, and has followed the profession since. Oct. 3, 1867, he married Miss Ollie M. DeWitt, a native of Oxford, Ohio; she died Feb. 27, 1877, in Medina. Oct. 1, 1878, he married Miss Mary J. Welty, a native of Oxford, Ohio. They have one child—Suzie Maybelle, born June 4, 1880. During the great fire in Medina in 1870, the Doctor's office and household goods were destroyed, and he had his hands seriously burned while he was trying to save his property, and only escaped himself by dropping from a window of the burning building.

W. H. BRADWAY, proprietor Medina Hollow-ware Company, Medina; was born in Munson Township, Hampden Co., Mass., Feb. 23, 1814. He was brought up on a farm until he was 16 years of age, when he engaged in brick-making, and worked at that business for five years. His schooling was limited to a few winter terms of district schools. He apprenticed, at Springfield, Mass., to the molder's trade for one year, he receiving \$100 and board, and followed the business most of the time until 1851, when he farmed for three years. In 1854, he came to Ohio, and settled in Hinckley Township, where he resided some eighteen months. He then came to Medina, and worked in a small foundry, where he made a new style of plows. After one year, he went to Ft. Wayne, Ind., where he engaged as foreman in Bass & Hannah's foundry, and, after six months, he went to Galion, Ohio, and took charge of A. C. Squire's foundry for twenty-two months, when he came to Medina and began clearing some land he had bought. In April, 1876, he engaged in his present business, renting the place of the owners, and, in 1877, he bought the entire business, and has conducted it since. He

married Miss Sallie E. Squier in July, 1837. She was a native of Massachusetts, and died July 8, 1879. They had two children; one living, viz., Orlando. He is married and lives in Ft. Wayne, Ind., where he follows his trade of brass molder in the Pittsburgh, Ft. Wayne & Chicago Railroad Co.'s shops.

S. H. BRADLEY, of S. H. Bradley & Son, hardware, Medina; was born in Blandford, Mass., Sept. 24, 1818, and lived there seventeen years, he assisting at home in the hotel and attending the district school. In 1835, the family moved to Maumee City, Ohio, and, in 1836, they came to Medina, where his father formed a partnership in the cabinet manufacturing business, the firm being Blair & Bradley. S. H. engaged his time in clerking in the general merchandise business until 1840, when he went to Cincinnati as book-keeper for Messrs. Albro & Co., with whom he remained one year; he then returned to Medina, and, on the 20th of November following, he married Miss Maria L. McClure. She was born in New York, and came to Ohio with her parents about the year 1828. After the marriage, he kept the American House in Medina, and, in the spring of 1843, he moved to Litchfield, where he kept hotel until the summer of 1844. He then engaged in the livery business in Tiffin, Ohio, and, in 1845, he came to Medina, and served as Deputy Auditor for four years. In the fall of 1848, he was elected Auditor, and was re-elected in 1850, in both instances being the only one elected on the ticket. In 1853, he became a member in the partnership of Bradley & Boulton, the latter being at the time Auditor; but he officiated in the store, and Mr. Bradley acted as Auditor. In 1857, Mr. Bradley bought Mr. Boulton's interest in the business, and, in 1861, he sold out to Messrs. E. G. & E. J. Fenn, and bought out the hardware business of H. W. Brown, and has been in that line ever since. In 1870, his business was destroyed by the great fire, his loss reaching \$9,500, on which there was an insurance of \$6,000. He soon re-built, and added queens and glass ware and pottery to his line of hardware. He also took his son into partnership, the style of the firm being S. H. Bradley & Son. By the marriage, there have been two children—John A., partner in the business, and Fannie M., who was drowned in 1864. Mr. Bradley's parents, Thomas and Lucretia A.





(Boice) Bradley, were natives of Suffield, Conn., and Blandford, Mass. They married in Blandford in 1816, and came West, as stated. He followed his cabinet business until 1845. Feb. 2 of that year, he died. Mrs. Bradley continued her residence in Medina until her death, in July, 1865. Of their three children, two are living—S. H. and L. L., who, since 1850, has resided in California. Mary E. died about the year 1853.

JUDGE SAMUEL G. BARNARD is a native of this county, and the fifth in a family of eight children born to Capt. Abner and Diana (Blanchard) Barnard. Abner Barnard, son of Capt. Samuel and Roxana Barnard, was born in the town of Simsbury, Scotland Parish, Hartford Co., Conn., Nov. 3, 1779; he married Diana, daughter of Thomas and Sylvia Blanchard, of Windsor, Poquonock Parish, Hartford Co., Conn., Feb. 22, 1820, and left his native State for the Reserve on May 10, 1827; journeying in wagons to Albany, he took the canal-boat there to Buffalo, where he embarked his family, consisting of a crippled daughter and a little boy of less than 2 years of age, on the steamboat Enterprise, for Cleveland. Arriving at a point three miles from that city, the captain of the vessel refused to go farther—it is said, because of some previous misunderstanding with the officials of the city—and the passengers were obliged to trust themselves to the open boats. These, laden down nearly to the gunwale, in the darkness of the night, made their tedious way to what was then the hamlet of Cleveland, the passengers touching the water when resting their hands on the sides of the boats. Fortunately, the passage from the steamboat was made without accident, and the little family came with teams from Cleveland, on the old pike, to a point on this road in Guilford Township, nearly a mile north of the village of Seville, settling on what is known as the Martin farm. Of the children, Abner was born in Connecticut Nov. 3, 1799; Diana was born in Connecticut Feb. 15, —, deceased Aug. 26, 1877; Mary W. was born in Connecticut Dec. 31, 1822, deceased May 6, 1850; James E. was born in Connecticut Aug. 22, 1825; Samuel G. was born in Ohio April 4, 1828; Albert G. was born in Ohio Oct. 14, 1831; Charles H. was born in Ohio Sept. 12, 1836, deceased April 4, 1852; Herculia M. was born in Ohio April 23, 1842. Samuel G. was born in Guil-

ford Township April 4, 1828. The straitened circumstances of his parents rendered early self-support an urgent necessity, and he began to work away from home, as a day-laborer, or by the month, at the age of 12 years. His early education was such as the meager advantages of the common schools afforded at that early period, with about a year and a half of academic instruction; he was a close student, and employed his leisure hours to such advantage, that, at the age of 16, he was engaged as an assistant teacher in a select school at Seville, and, in the following year, successfully taught a winter school. He continued teaching school in the winter for a number of years, when he was engaged as Principal of a Normal School at Weymouth; this school, numbering over one hundred pupils, he taught with but one assistant, and with such distinguished success that he was at once elected Superintendent of the Medina Public Schools. This position he filled with great acceptance, until his failing health forced him to resign. But teaching had become his chosen life work, and, after a few months' respite, he opened a Normal School at Medina. Here his efficiency as a teacher was displayed in a marked manner, and attracted a large attendance from a wide area of country. This school was a great success in every respect, and Mr. Barnard has the gratification of knowing that under his guidance many of his pupils laid the foundation of an education which has placed them in prominent and responsible positions. Probably the leading characteristic of Mr. Barnard as an educator, was his skill in directing young minds, and he was recognized as particularly successful in influencing those who were regarded as especially wayward. It was this feature of his school that gained for it so wide a reputation and made it sought by thoughtful and careful parents for their children. It is needless to add, that his school was highly successful, financially as well as professionally. Mr. Barnard was appointed a member of the County Board of School Examiners in 1853, and remained in that position until about 1870, save while occupying the position of Probate Judge. At the close of his second term in the latter position, he was again elected to the superintendency of the Medina Public Schools, which he held until he resigned to accept a similar appointment at Ravenna, Ohio. Here,



again, his zeal made too heavy demands upon his strength, and his declining health admonished him that he must resign his chosen work. Since then, Mr. Barnard has been obliged to decline many invitations to resume his work as teacher, and has, of late years, devoted himself to the practice of the law. He was admitted to the bar in 1852, and commenced his practice with J. C. Johnson, but abandoned it for teaching after six months' experience. Since 1874, however, he has been regularly engaged in his profession, and has made an enviable position at the bar. In 1876, he was chosen Presidential Elector on the Republican ticket; was made a member of the Judiciary Committee in the Ohio Electoral College, and cast his vote for Rutherford B. Hayes for President and for William A. Wheeler for Vice President. As a citizen of Medina, Mr. Barnard has been prompt in identifying himself with every worthy movement, and, in all the trying experiences through which the village has been called to pass, has ever been ready to cheerfully act well his part. A zealous Republican in politics, he has not sought political preferment, though an efficient organizer and attractive speaker when the occasion demands. As a public speaker, Mr. Barnard is clear and logical in thought, ready and apposite in expression, and forcible in delivery. Though a man of intense convictions, he surveys the public questions that arise, with a calm, dispassionate judgment that rarely leads him astray. Of a generous, sympathetic, confiding nature, his real character is best known in the home circle and among his intimate friends, where his genial influence sheds a glow of cordiality which acts like a benison upon his friends. Mr. Barnard was married, Oct. 7, 1849, to Miss Malvina M. Martin, daughter of Asa (born in Bath, Grafton Co., N. H., Feb. 14, 1807) and Nancy (Wetherbee) (born in Bath, Sept. 25, 1805) Martin. Mr. and Mrs. Martin were married at Bath, Aug. 8, 1826, and moved to Medina, arriving here Nov. 31, 1832. Four children were born to them—James, born in New Hampshire; Malvina M., born in New Hampshire; Jirah, born in New Hampshire; Ariel M., born in Ohio; Augusta A., born in Ohio. Mrs. Barnard, the second child and first daughter, was born at Bath, N. H., Sept. 16, 1823, and came with her parents to Ohio in 1832. Notwithstanding the meager opportunities for gaining an educa-

tion at that time, her quick perception as a child, and her earnest devotion to her studies, enabled her to make such rapid advancement, that, at the age of 14, she was granted a certificate, and began teaching in the public schools. She continued in this profession until some time after her marriage. Possessed of fine mental abilities, excellent forecast of mind, good taste and judgment, and lively wit, she is, above all, womanly; a devoted mother, and an earnest member of the Protestant Episcopal Church. Four children have blessed her marriage—F. J., born in Medina, March 26, 1852; educated at Cornell University, N. Y., he is now a popular educator in Ohio, having been connected with the schools of the State some nine years; he was Superintendent for several years at Brooklyn, then at Selina for two years, and is at present serving on the third year at Middleton; the second child, Lily, was born at Medina March 23, 1856, deceased Aug. 12, 1856; Bertie A., born at Medina Aug. 12, 1857, is a teacher in the Medina Public Schools; and Harry, born at Medina Sept. 29, 1865.

EPHRAIM BRENNER, proprietor Brenner House, Medina; was born in Lancaster Co., Penn., July 6, 1840, and is the second in a family of ten children born to Adam and Mary (Sitz) Brenner; they were also natives of Lancaster Co., Penn.; they moved to Wayne Co., Ohio, in 1851, and followed farming. Ephraim lived at home until he was 16 years of age; he then apprenticed to the harness and saddle business with John A. Rettig, of Medina. After his marriage, he farmed his father-in-law's farm for one year; he then rented the latter's store, in Abbeyville, and next formed the partnership of Renz & Brenner, and purchased the business of Mr. John A. Rettig (whom they formerly apprenticed to), and have conducted the business since. In 1870, he began the hotel business, and, though he was burned out of hotel and business in the great fire of that year, he has been identified with each ever since, building a large brick hotel in 1879. Socially, Mr. Brenner is a genial gentleman, and has a large and intimate circle of friends. He was married, Feb. 12, 1863, to Miss E. E. Miller, a native of Liverpool Township, Medina Co., Ohio, and eldest of two survivors in a family of ten children born to Jacob and Abbylonia (Dechaud) Miller; by the marriage, there have been three children, of





whom two are living, viz., Hattie V. and Pearl B. Jacob Miller was a native of Wurtemberg, where the name appears as Muller. He came to the United States with his parents in 1831. They arrived in Philadelphia with only 94 cents, and worked in the city a short time, until they had enough to move West on. They moved to Liverpool, Medina Co., Ohio, and settled in the timber, building a rude hut of bark and brush, in which they lived until their log house was completed. They lived on the place until her death, in about 1848. He married again, and lived in the vicinity until his death, in 1871; his second wife died in 1880. Jacob lived at home a few years after they came to Medina Co., when he hired in the store of Mr. Walbridge, at Brunswick Center. Remaining there a few years, he next went to Cleveland and worked about a wholesale store, and, during his residence there, he married Miss Abbylonia Dechand, a native of Baden, Germany. She came to the United States with an uncle, who settled in Cleveland, where she hired out. After the marriage, they took a farm at Parma, where they lived two years; they then went to Liverpool and settled on part of his father's land, occupying the original log house. He did teaming to Cleveland, and, on one trip, got seven pounds of coffee, and, on his return home, offered same for sale, and gradually worked into a store business, which he conducted successfully for many years; he also carried on farming extensively. He was well known and highly respected. He died on the old homestead July 30, 1880; she died in Cleveland Nov. 14, 1880.

AUSTIN BADGER, retired; P. O. Medina; he (whose portrait appears in this work) was born in Chenango Co., N. Y., Sept. 3, 1793, and lived at home until 1818, during which time he worked on the farm and in a grist-mill and woolen-factory. His education was confined to the district schools. In 1812, he enlisted in the army, and served under Col. William Dobbins, of Gen. Wadsworth's command, six months. Upon the burning of Buffalo, in 1813, the militia of which he was a member was called out and fought at Black Rock. In 1814, the company was drafted, and served as guards over prisoners at Greenbush, Mr. Badger serving as Orderly Sergeant. Upon the close of the war, he returned home and worked on a farm and in a saw-mill until the

spring of 1818, when he started for Ohio, walking the entire distance to Buffalo, thence by water to Cattaraugus Creek, afoot to Erie, by water to Ashtabula, and afoot, via Cleveland, to Medina, where he took a contract to clear the public square, and next to build the court house. It was built of hewed logs, two stories high, the court-room being in the second story. In the spring of 1819, he and a Mr. Hecox opened hotel in the lower room of the court house, and entertained the first court held at the county seat. In 1820, he entered some land (now Montville Township); his and some land entered by Abraham Freese was the first land entered in that section. He entered 100 acres and put up a log cabin (round logs) and began clearing; he also started a nursery, which furnished most of the early orchards of that locality. In October, 1820, he married Miss Catharine Rouple, who was born in Pennsylvania; they were married in Cuyahoga Co., Ohio; she died July 30, 1822, leaving one child—Lucia, now Mrs. Booth, of Medina. April 3, 1823, he married Miss Nancy Bell, who died March 5, 1849. Oct. 22, 1849, he married Mrs. Wells, formerly Miss Mary S. Sibley; she died Oct. 14, 1852. Nov. 29, 1854, he married Mrs. Loring, formerly Miss Elizabeth Whelock; she died Nov. 17, 1878. There were no children except by the first marriage. In 1853, Mr. Badger retired from his farm, and has lived in Medina since. He was one of the first Trustees of Montville Township; also served as Justice of the Peace, and was for three years Adjutant of the county militia. In 1816, he was commissioned by De Witt Clinton as Captain of an independent rifle company, in New York. In 1854, he took a trip to Iowa and located some land warrants he received for service in the war of 1812. Being one of the early settlers, he is known and esteemed by all.

C. B. CHAMBERLIN, manufacturer of cheese, Medina; was born on his father's farm, in Franklin Co., Vt., April 21, 1820, and lived at home until 1847, assisting on the farm and attending school. May 11, 1845, he married Miss Nancy Shattuck, a native of Windsor Co., Vt. About his 22d year, Mr. Chamberlin became the manager of his father's business, the latter deeding his property, to take effect at his death. In 1847, the business was sold, and Mr. Chamberlin and wife, with his father and



mother, came to Ohio and occupied a log cabin on the farm they had bought in Montville Township, Medina Co. They began clearing the land and built a frame house, barn and cheese-house; he also started a dairy with 100 cows. In 1866, he came to his farm adjoining Medina, and lived there about four years. He then moved to his present residence in the corporation, where he has since lived. During his residence in this county, Mr. Chamberlin has been engaged in farming, dairying and the manufacture of cheese, at present owning four factories in the county. Mr. Chamberlin's parents, Moses M. and Lucy (Kendall) Chamberlin, were natives of Vermont. They died in Montville Township, and were buried in Medina.

CYRUS E. CLARK, farmer and stock-raiser; P. O. Medina. This family trace their connections back through a long line of ancestors to the early days of the country. The first of these to appear is the name of William Clark, who, in company with twenty-seven young men, from Hartford, Windsor and Weathersfield, settled at Haddam, in 1662; he died in 1681, leaving nine children—four sons and five daughters, all of whom were born before his removal to Haddam; hence, he was probably upward of 35 years of age at that time, and, doubtless, was the original immigrant. His property, at his death, amounted to 412 pounds sterling. One of his sons, Sergeant John Clark, was the father of John Clark, Jr., who was the father of Deacon Ebenezer Clark. He was the father of Ebenezer Clark, Jr., who was the father of Ebenezer Clark, the father of the subject of this sketch. Ebenezer Clark, last mentioned, married Sallie Sanford about the year 1812; their births occurred Dec. 4, 1786, and Oct. 6, 1792, respectively, in Litchfield, Conn. They came to Medina Co., Ohio, in 1838, settled on a farm and followed cultivating the soil until their death; she died in 1861, and he in 1867. Cyrus E. Clark, the subject, was born in Washington Township, Litchfield Co., Conn., Feb. 20, 1818, and is the third son of a family of six children, born to Ebenezer and Sallie (Sanford) Clark. He lived with his parents until his marriage, May 31, 1847, to Miss Harriet A. Oviatt, also a native of Washington Township, Litchfield Co., Conn., and the second child of a family of four, born to John A. and Caroline (Mason) Oviatt, who were also natives of Connecti-

cut; her father, Mr. Elisha Mason, was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, and received a pension to the time of his death. After marriage, Mr. Clark settled on his present place, where he has ever since resided. He owns 180 acres of land, lying three miles northeast of Medina, which he has made by his own labor and management. Four children have been born to him—Porter O., farmer, single, lives at home; Fannie R., at home; Arthur L., a merchant at Winsted, Conn.; and Franklin J., at home.

C. J. CHASE, County Auditor, Medina, is second of a family of three children, born to John B. and Sophia (Gates) Chase. His birth occurred June 21, 1854, on his father's farm, in La Fayette Township, Medina Co., Ohio. His early life was spent upon the farm and in attending the schools of his district, until 1870, when he entered the Preparatory Department of Oberlin College, and graduated from the Department of Arts in the fall of 1876. In 1879, his Alma Mater conferred upon him the degree of Master of Arts. Upon his return from college, he became Principal of the public schools of Lodi, and, the following year, he was called to Le Roy, where, for three years, he served as Principal of the public schools of that place. In the summer of 1880, he received the nomination for Auditor by the Republican County Convention, and was duly elected, taking his seat on the second Tuesday in November following. In August, 1877, he married Miss Josie L. Woodworth, at her home in Ashtabula Co., Ohio. They have one child—Paul L. In the fall of 1880, Mr. Chase took up his residence in Medina.

F. B. CLARK, County Treasurer, Medina; was born on his father's farm in Medina Co., Ohio, April 7, 1830. He lived at home for twenty years, when he came to Medina, and read medicine with Drs. Tolman and Smith for three and a half years. He then attended lectures at Western Reserve Medical College at Cleveland, and, in 1853, went to Lockbourne and began the practice of medicine in partnership with Dr. McLean. But, his father dying that winter, he returned to the homestead farm, and lived on same until 1878, having bought out the other heirs in the property. In 1854, he was appointed Township Clerk, and has held the office some twenty years. He also served four years as Township Trustee. He was





elected County Treasurer in 1877, on the Republican ticket, and was re-elected in 1879. Upon his election in 1877, he moved to Medina, where he has since lived. Mr. Clark has been thrice married. His first marriage was to Miss Adelaide Pritchard, which occurred March 1, 1855. She was a native of Medina Co., and died leaving one child—Frank Eugene. The second marriage was to Miss Minerva Branch. She was also a native of Medina Co., and died leaving one child—John L. His present wife was Miss Delight A. Prouty, of La Fayette Township, Medina Co. They were married in 1864, and have one child—Forrest W. Mr. Clark's parents, John L. and Almira (Stevens) Clark, were natives of Connecticut and Massachusetts. The former was born Aug. 8, 1799, the latter in April, 1804. They came to Ohio when young, and were married at Grafton. At the age of 20, he began clearing a piece of land which his father gave him, now the property of his son. He lived on the place until 1836, when he was elected County Sheriff, and served four years, after which he returned to his farm, where he lived until his death, Dec. 29, 1853. Mrs. Clark lived with her son, F. B., for some twelve or fifteen years. She then went to Circleville, Ohio, and lived with her daughter Evaline until her death. By the marriage there were seven children—Evaline, now Mrs. Dr. Sheridan, of Circleville; George (deceased); F. B.; Helen, now Mrs. James Loughry, lives in Pittsburgh; Mary Ann, in Pittsburgh; Emily, now Mrs. A. Weaver, lives in Pittsburgh; John, lives in Fremont Co., Iowa (farmer). John Clark, the father of John L., and grandfather of F. B., was a native of Connecticut, and married Miss Mary Munson, also a native of Connecticut. They came to Ohio in the spring of 1818. Those of their nine children who did not come with them had come out before. John settled in the woods a mile west of the present Medina Center. He cleared a large farm, on which he died about the year 1833. Mrs. Clark lived with her children, and died in 1859, at the residence of her son, Dr. Jeremiah Clark, of Franklin Co., Ohio. All their children grew up and were married. They were Dr. Munson Clark, who died in Ashland; Dr. Bela B. Clark, who also died in Ashland; Polly, the only daughter, married Horace Porter, and died in Franklin Co.; Ranson and John L. died in Medina Township; Dr. Jeremiah died in Frank-

lin Co.; Rev. Anson (Episcopal) died in Medina; Dr. Abel died in Xenia, Ohio; Amos, the only survivor, lives in Huron Co., Ohio.

JUDGE C. G. CODDING, lawyer, Medina; is a native of Granger Township, Medina County, Ohio. He was born Sept. 9, 1829. His early life was spent on the farm. At the age of 22, he began work with his brother, in the cooper business, which business he followed during the summers for six years, teaching school during the winters. In 1858, he began reading law in Medina, with Mr. John B. Young. In 1860, he was admitted to the bar, and, the following year, the partnership of Young & Coddling was formed, and continued until the fall of 1864. In the fall of 1865, Mr. Coddling was elected Prosecuting Attorney for the county, and was re-elected in the fall of 1867. In 1871, the firm of Blake, Woodward & Coddling was formed, and continued until 1873. In February of that year, he entered the office of Probate Judge, to which he was elected the fall previous. He was re-elected in 1875, serving, in all six years. Since the expiration of his term of office, he has devoted his time to his regular practice. Aug. 9, 1863, he married Miss Cornelia J., a daughter of Isaac W. and Ann (Oatman) Babcock. The Judge's parents were the Hon. John and Hannah (Spencer) Coddling. They were natives of New York. He was born May 2, 1794; his father, John Coddling, Sr., was a blacksmith by trade; the latter and wife died in Ontario Co., N. Y., during the plague in 1813. The Hon. John Coddling, Jr., came to Ohio in the year 1818, and settled in Medina Co., where he followed farming. He served a number of years as Justice of the Peace, and was one of the early County Assessors. In 1837, he was elected on the Whig ticket, a Representative from Medina County to the State Legislature, and was re-elected in 1838. In 1844, he was elected Senator from the Medina and Lorain District, and was re-elected in 1845, after which he lived retired on his farm until his death, Oct. 20, 1865; his wife died Sept. 3, 1854.

H. P. FOSKETT, grocer, Medina; was born in Leroy, Genesee Co., N. Y., March 31, 1836; his mother died when he was but 5 years of age, and, the following year, he came to Ohio with his grandfather, who settled in La Fayette Township. Young Foskett was raised on the farm with his grandfather's family, living with





them, except one year's residence on a farm in New York, until 1860, when he began reading law with J. B. Young, of Medina, and read with him for one year. In the fall of 1861, he enlisted in a company formed in Medina Co., which was, after arriving at Camp Chase, distributed throughout the 42d O. V. I. (Garfield's regiment). He was assigned to Co. K, of which company he was elected 2d Lieutenant. He was in the service nearly three years, and was twice promoted, last serving as Captain of Cos. I and D. In 1863, the Captain was detailed to the Provost Department at New Orleans, where he inspected the passes and passports of passengers on all water craft except war vessels, that came to that port. He was in the battles of Middle Creek, Cumberland Gap, Tazewell, Charleston, Va., Chickasaw Bluff, Arkansas Post, Vicksburg, and the other battles of the regiment. From the army he returned to Medina, and engaged in the clothing business, under the firm name of Sanders & Foskett, who continued for three years, when he sold out and occupied a farm he had formerly bought, and lived on same for five years. In the fall of 1872, he was elected County Treasurer, and served two terms. He then engaged as salesman in the clothing house of Lewis Leon, in Cleveland, remaining with him about eighteen months, when he returned to Medina and engaged in his present business, buying out Mr. A. H. McClure. In the fall of 1865, he married Miss Nancy B. Swan, a native of Sharon Township, Medina Co. They have three children, viz., Harry S., Helen R. and Burr A.

HIRAM GOODWIN, carpenter, Medina; was born in Granger Township, Medina Co., Ohio, June 10, 1826, and lived at home on the farm until the spring of 1848, during which time he apprenticed to carpentering. He was married, March 5, 1848, to Miss Martha Swan, a native of Sherbrooke Co., Canada. She died in Iowa Nov. 2, 1871, leaving two children—Charles S. and Erva L. In 1865, he moved to Medina, where he has since lived, except one and one-half years' residence in Iowa. In 1866, Mr. Goodwin engaged in the grocery business in Medina, and continued same for five years. Sept. 3, 1872, he married Miss Cornelia, daughter of Robert and Mary (Prentiss) Jackson, who were natives of New York. She came West in 1854, and was a student at Oberlin a number

of years, and graduated at the National Normal School at Lebanon, Ohio, after which she followed teaching, and had taught, the three years previous to her marriage, in the grammar school at Akron. Mr. Goodwin served as Justice of the Peace in Granger Township for eight years; he also held the office of Clerk in that town. He served four years in Montville Township as Justice, and for past eight years has been Clerk of Medina Village. He is serving on his fourth term as Coroner, and has served as Deputy Sheriff for three terms.

NATHANIEL A. GOODWIN, deceased; was born in Litchfield, Conn., March 18, 1788. He was the second child of a family of four children born to Seth and Deborah (Allen) Goodwin. These parents were natives of Connecticut, as were their parents. Seth Goodwin was a soldier with the rank of Captain in the Revolutionary war, and ranked as Major in the war of 1812. The business of his life was shoemaking and farming. He moved to Ontario Co., N. Y., in 1804, and to Granger Township, Medina Co., Ohio, in 1817. His wife died there July 1, 1829. He lived with his children until his death, in 1849. They had four children, one of whom was Nathaniel A. He married Miss Leonia H. Low, a native of Ontario Co., N. Y. They came west on ox-sleds, the winter of 1815-16. They stopped a short time at Strongsville, but, owing to the land titles there, came to Granger Township, Medina Co. They had ten children, one of whom, Deborah M., born Aug. 2, 1818, was the first female child born in that township, and her cousin, Hamilton Low, born Aug. 2, 1818, was the first male child born in the same. Mr. Goodwin followed farming. He was one of the early pioneers of the county. He died Jan. 21, 1843, and Mrs. Goodwin died February 5, 1868.

ANDREW GRIESINGER, boots and shoes, Medina; was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, December 22, 1832, and lived there twenty-two years, during which time he learned the shoemaker's trade. In 1854, he came to the United States, and worked at his trade for three years in New York City. He then came to Medina Co., Ohio, and worked as jour for about three years. He then engaged in the business, beginning with a very limited stock, which he kept steadily increasing, until now he carries the largest stock of boots and shoes in the county, besides conducting a custom depart-



ment employing five hands. In 1870, his business was destroyed by the great fire, he losing over and above insurance, about \$1,000. December 1, 1870, he completed and occupied his present brick store. Nov. 29, 1859, he married Miss Catharine Kunster. She was born in Germany, and came to the United States when young, her folks settling in Liverpool Township, this county. By the marriage there have been nine children, six of whom are living, viz.: Christian, Louisa, Andrew, William, Mary and Georgia.

G. B. HAMILTON, farming; P. O. Medina; was born on his present place Nov. 17, 1822, and lived here until he was 22 years of age, when he engaged as clerk in Medina, which he followed about five years. He was then, March, 1849, appointed Postmaster under Gen. Taylor's Administration, and served four years. In 1850, he engaged as telegraph operator at Medina, his being the first office of the kind in the county; he continued the business about four years. He then served two years as general agent for contractors on the Medina & Wheeling Railroad, after which he served one year as Treasurer of that company. He then came back to the farm, where he remained until March, 1861, when he was appointed Government Mail Agent, Cleveland to Cincinnati, and run for four years; he then served one year as Special Agent, post office department, after which, he again returned to his farm and has lived there since. Sept. 19, 1850, he married Miss Flora A. Sellkirk, a native of Medina Co., Ohio; she died in April, 1877. They had four children, viz.: Achsah, now Mrs. Pratt, of Medina; Letta, now Mrs. Pratt, of Lorain County; Julia and Gale. In September, 1879, he married Mrs. Blanchard, formerly Miss Harriet Smeadley, a native of Massachusetts; she came to Medina County during her infancy.

MATHEW L. HAMILTON, retired farmer; P. O. Medina; was born in Delaware Co., N. Y., Jan. 20, 1797, and lived on a farm in his native State for twenty-one years. In 1818, he and his brother Arzy came to Ohio, by sleigh, to Medina County, where their cousin, Zenas Hamilton, lived. Mathew entered 100 acres of land, where he now lives, and his brother entered adjoining. They worked for the neighbors, and, late in the fall of that year, he went back to New York afoot, the whole distance to Delaware County. He also visited relatives in

Connecticut, and the following summer worked at carpentering. In August, 1821, he married Miss Achsah Beardsley, a native of Connecticut. They married in Delaware Co., N. Y., whither her parents had moved. The fall of his marriage he came West in a two-horse wagon, and occupied his place, building a log house, and began clearing his land. In 1839, his wife died, leaving four children, of whom three are living, viz.: G. B., on the old homestead; William and Lewis farm adjoining places in Washington Co., Iowa. In 1840, Mr. Hamilton married Miss Sallie Beardsley, a sister of his first wife; she died in 1873. About 1872, he became paralyzed, and has been an invalid since. His parents, Eden and Zellar (Lindsley) Hamilton, were natives of Connecticut; they followed farming; of their nine children, Mathew L. alone survives. Eden Hamilton was a drummer boy in the Revolutionary war, his command serving at West Point, when Andre was hung.

PETER R. HUNTINGTON, farmer; P. O. Medina; was born in Norwich, Conn., Aug. 20, 1809, and lived there sixteen years; he then came to Ohio, taking the water-route via New York City, Albany, Buffalo and Cleveland; thence, he rode with a stranger to Medina Co., where he lived with his brother-in-law, until 1827; he then went to Cleveland and worked on the Government pier, and in that fall he went back to Connecticut and worked on a farm; the following winter he spent with his brother in New York, and worked during the summer on a farm in New Jersey; he then returned to Connecticut, and worked on a farm until 1832; in December of that year, he came to Ohio and clerked in his brother-in-law's store in Medina. In the following spring he entered 96 acres of land and began clearing the same. Feb. 22, 1834, he married Miss Jane Simmons, of New York, who was then visiting her sister in Ohio. After the marriage, he bought 100 acres of land, the same he now resides on. He occupied the place in 1836, and has lived on the same ever since. Mrs. Huntington died April 1, 1878; of their five children, but one is living—Sophia, who lives on the old homestead. His parents, Levi and Catharine M. (Richards) Huntington, were natives of Norwich, Conn. They were married Oct. 23, 1802. He died in Norwich July 1, 1838, and she died Aug. 6, 1818; of their five children, two are living, viz., Peter R., here





in Medina, and Elizabeth Bowers, of Brooklyn, N. Y.

**DANIEL HEMMETER**, Medina Marble Works, Medina; was born in Syracuse, N. Y., Aug. 4, 1848. During his infancy his parents moved to Cleveland, Ohio, where our subject grew up, and at the age of 16, was apprenticed to the marble-cutting trade, serving three years with J. M. Martin, after which he worked as journeyman in Cleveland and Massillon. Aug. 4, 1870, he married Miss Louisa Kühr, who was born in Massillon. They had five children, four of whom are living—William, John C., Lilly and Ralph. Charles died in Medina in 1876. Mr. Hemmeter came to Medina in 1872, and established the Medina Marble Works, at first doing the work himself. His business now employs from three to six skilled workmen, and affords the best facilities to his customers, who buy of him at prices which do not include the agents' commission, city rents, etc.

**GEORGE HAYDEN**, County Clerk, Medina. The subject of this sketch was born in Sharon Township, Medina Co., Ohio, April 5, 1840. He was born on his father's farm, where he lived until he became of age, during which time he assisted in the labors on the farm and attended school. (In addition to those of his district, he also attended at Sharon Center and Medina.) He also taught several terms of district school during winters. In 1861, he went to Hiram College, Ohio, and remained there until September 20 of that year, when he enlisted in Company A, 42d O. V. I. (Garfield's Regiment), and served for twenty months, when, owing to sickness, he received his discharge. Among the battles in which with the regiment he took part, were Cumberland Gap, Chickasaw and Arkansas Post, he receiving his discharge after the latter, and returned to Medina. After a few months, he engaged in farming in Sharon Township, where he remained until 1876, during which time he served two terms as Assessor and part of a term as Justice of the Peace. He was then elected County Clerk on the Republican ticket, and was re-elected in 1879. Upon his election in 1876, he removed to Medina, where he has since lived. In the fall of 1864, he married Miss Helen Brown; she was born in Sharon Township, Medina Co., Ohio. They have one child—Edna G.

**FRANK S. JONES**, physician, Medina; is the son of John S. and Lora (Coy) Jones, who

were natives of New York and were married in Medina Co., Ohio, whither they had come when young. He was a carpenter and joiner by trade, which he followed in connection with his farm. In 1860, he retired from the farm and lived in Medina, until his death, in April, 1864. His wife died in March of the same year. Of their seven children, five grew up to maturity; of the latter three are living, viz.: Mrs. Harriet E. Henry, of Chicago; Ella, living with her sister; and the Doctor, Frank S. He was born in Medina Co., Ohio, May 18, 1846, and made his residence at home until the death of his father in 1864, after which he engaged as clerk in the grocery store of Davis & Warner, in Medina, and clerked with them for one year. In 1865, he engaged as clerk in the drug store of A. M. Armstrong, and later served one year in the same business in Cleveland, after which he returned to Medina and soon after went to New York City, where he attended the New York College of Pharmacy for three seasons, graduating in the spring of 1872; he also took a special course at the School of Mines, New York; he remained in New York in the drug business until the following fall, when he attended the Rush Medical College of Chicago, Ill., graduating there in the spring of 1876. He returned to Medina in April following, and began the practice, which he has continued since. Oct. 30, 1877, he married Miss Marie, daughter of Judge Humphreville, of Medina, Ohio.

**SAMUEL KENYON**, farmer; P. O. Brunswick; is a native of Rhode Island, and was born Oct. 31, 1813. He was raised on the farm and obtained his education by a limited attendance at the district schools. At the age of 17, he went to Monroe Co., N. Y. (whither his parents had gone), and lived there until 1838, working on the farm. In that year he came to Medina Co., Ohio, and worked on the farm in Granger Township. July 4, 1839, he married Miss Amy Clark, a native of Rhode Island. There have been six children born to the marriage, of whom but one is living, viz.: Charles C. Throughout his life, Mr. Kenyon has followed agricultural pursuits, in which he has been successful, starting with a purchase of 10 acres, he has steadily increased his property, until now he owns about 200 acres, furnishing an ample competency for himself and wife in their declining years.



CHARLES C. KENYON, farmer; P. O. Brunswick; was born on his father's farm in Medina Co., Ohio, Jan. 18, 1847; he married Miss Lucy Gouldin, Feb. 16, 1868. She is a native of Summit Co., Ohio. They have three children, viz.: Alfred M., Herman C. and John S. His wife's parents, John and Hannah (Husong) Gouldin, were natives of Ohio and now reside in Summit Co.

R. L. LOVELAND, farming and stock-dealing; P. O. Medina; was born in Trumbull Co., Ohio, April 6, 1821, and is a son of David and Amy (Lowry) Loveland, who were natives of Hartford, Conn., and emigrated with their parents to Trumbull Co., when quite young, and where they were married. They removed to Delaware Co., Ohio, about the year 1826, where they farmed for five years; they then sold out and moved to the Illinois River country, the winter the Mormons went to Nauvoo, expecting to meet friends there, but, upon arrival, found they had joined the Mormons, and had removed with them to their new city (Nauvoo). They determined to return to Ohio, and arrived in Delaware Co. about the middle of February, and in the following spring they bought and occupied a farm in Huron Co., where they lived three years, then moved to Ashland Co., where they lived for twenty-five years, when they returned to Huron Co., and resided there until their death. She died in 1859, at the age of 64, and he died in 1861, at the age of 66 years. They had four children, of whom R. L., the subject, is the second. He lived at home and assisted his parents until his marriage, which took place March 28, 1848, to Miss Catharine McGuire, a native of Pennsylvania, and who, when young, removed with her parents to Ashland Co. After marriage, he removed to Lorain Co. and bought 54 acres of land, which he occupied and improved. He dealt largely in sheep and was successful with them. He lived there twenty-six years, and increased his land to a fine farm of 262½ acres, well stocked; he also had a dairy of forty-one cows. In 1874, he came to Medina and bought his present place of 194 acres, one and one-fourth miles east of Medina, on which he has since built an elegant brick residence, and has probably the best farm improvements in the county. He formerly kept a dairy here, having at one time sixty cows, here and in Lorain together, but recently he sold his dairy, and has turned his attention to

sheep, keeping 160 fine-wool sheep. Ten children have been born to him, viz.: Newton W., married, and lives in Kansas; Elmer H. and Mary, at home; Emma, now Mrs. Collins, lives in Medina Township; Charles manages his father's farm in Ashland Co.; Hubert P., Hattie P., Agnes, Cora and Lucy are at home. Mrs. Loveland died March 3, 1880, of nervous prostration, brought on in consequence of a long drive over bad roads. She received information of the illness of her sister, Mrs. Simanton, in Ashland Co. It was too late for a train, and, in her anxiety to reach her sister, drove the distance, arriving just in time to see her alive. In a few days after, Mrs. Loveland died, literally sacrificing herself through affection for her sister. She was highly respected by her many friends, and by all who shared in her many acts of kindness. Her remains were brought home, and placed in the vault in Medina Center.

O. N. LEACH, clothing and gents' furnishing goods, Medina; was born in Sullivan, Ashland Co., Ohio, in 1841. In 1858, he entered the Preparatory Department of Oberlin College, and remained there until 1860. He then engaged as clerk in the general merchandise business of Baldwin, Laundon & Co.; in 1868, he formed the partnership of Fitch & Leach, they doing a clothing and gents' furnishing goods business. July 16, 1866, he married Miss Electa Fitch, a native of Cuyahoga Co., Ohio. They had four children, of whom two are living—Frank H. and Florence A. In 1872, Mr. Leach came to Medina, and opened business in the Empire Block, and later moved to the Dental Block, but, not having sufficient space to accommodate his trade, in the fall of 1878, built his present brick store, thus securing an elegant room, 24½x80 feet, in which he has placed a mammoth stock. Prominent among the many advantages he offers the trade, is his one-price cash system, which unites satisfaction and cheapness for the buyer. Mr. Leach has also an admirably managed custom department that cannot fail to be appreciated by all who love a snug fit.

MAJ. G. W. LEWIS, lawyer, Medina; began reading law with Mr. John B. Young, in Medina, in October, 1865, and read with him until February, 1867. He was elected Probate Judge in the fall of 1866, and was re-elected in 1869, serving, in all, six years. In January, 1872, he was admitted to the bar by the Supreme Court. In February following, he be-





came a member of the law firm of Blake, Woodward & Lewis, which dissolved in 1875, since which time he has followed his profession alone. The Major is a native of Batavia, Genesee Co., N. Y., he was born April 13, 1837; in 1840, his parents came to Ohio and settled on a farm in Spencer Township, Medina Co. He lived at home until he became of age; his education was obtained in the Spencer and Medina district schools; he also attended the Oberlin College; he began teaching during the winter of his 19th year, and taught some thirteen terms in all. In the fall of 1860, he went to Illinois, and took charge as Principal of the public schools of Ashley, in Washington Co. In 1861, he raised a private school of sixty scholars. The term was to begin April 15, of that year. But, owing to the breaking-out of the rebellion, he volunteered and was assigned to the 11th Ill. V. I., he being a private in Company C, he served four months, and then returned to Medina, Ohio, and taught school the following winter, and, in the spring, he hired on the farm of Mr. James Eglin for \$14 per month, and worked for him until Aug. 12, 1862; he then, with about forty others, enlisted at Spencer; they were sworn in by Abel Wood, and went to Cleveland, where they were known as the West Medina County Company. They had no officers until in September. The County Military Company obtained leave of Gov. Tod, for the company to elect its own officers, which resulted in the election of G. W. as Captain, and they were assigned to Company B, 124th O. V. I., and served until the close of the war, participating in the battles of Chickamauga, Orchard Knob, Mission Ridge, Rocky Face, Resaca, Atlanta, Franklin, Nashville and others; at the battle of Nashville, our subject was wounded, losing his left arm, and served thereafter as Major, he being promoted for gallant conduct in that fight; his commission as Major was by Gov. John W. Groff, and dates Jan. 18, 1865, and, in June following, he was commissioned Lieutenant Colonel; from the army he came to Medina, and began reading law. Oct. 19, 1862, he married Miss Mary F., daughter of Leonard and Sallie (McDougall) Ashley, she was born in Greenfield, Huron Co., Ohio, where her parents were early settlers. Four children have been born by this marriage, two of whom are living, viz.: Dan Ashley, born Aug. 4, 1866; and Jennie G., born Oct. 18, 1868; Frank McS.,

was born Oct. 3, 1875, and died July 28, 1876; Mary E. was born Aug. 18, 1877, and died Sept. 23, 1880.

JOHN F. MILLER, farmer; P. O. Medina; was born in Soham, Cambridgeshire, Eng., July 15, 1814, and lived there until 1840; received but a limited amount of schooling. In 1840, he and a brother and sister came to the United States, and finally to Medina, Ohio, where a brother already resided. The new emigrants, bought, together, a farm of 90 acres, about two and one-half miles north of Medina, which they occupied and farmed in partnership for about four years, when the partnership was dissolved, and John F. (the subject) bought 56 acres two and a quarter miles north of Medina, upon which he built and which he still owns. In 1870, he came to Medina, where he has since resided (had lived in town twice before, for short periods); he was married, December 31, 1843, to Miss Lora Clark, a daughter of Ransom and Betsey (Adams) Clark, who were natives of Connecticut and Pennsylvania, and who came to Ohio while young; they were married in Cuyahoga Co., Ohio, in May, 1819, and lived thereafter in Medina. Mr. and Mrs. Miller are the parents of four children, two of whom are living—Marietta, now Mrs. Hills, living on homestead; Deborah at home. In politics, Mr. Miller has always been a Republican.

J. S. MASON, photographer, portrait and landscape, Medina; was born in Oneida Co., N. Y., May 30, 1844, and came to Medina Co. with his parents in 1850. They at first located on a farm in Brunswick Township, where they lived two years. They then moved to Medina Township, where they rented a farm, and, two years later, bought the same. Our subject lived at home until 1857, when he went to Oberlin, Ohio, and, in 1858, he apprenticed to the printer's trade, in the Oberlin *News* office, and served there four years. In July, 1862, he enlisted in Co. F, 103d O. V. I., and served with that command until June 23, 1864, when he was wounded on the skirmish line on the Chattahoochee River, in Georgia, he receiving his discharge in Columbus, Ohio, in October following. Shortly after his discharge, he visited the East, and, in 1866, he engaged in the photographing business in Rome, N. Y. He came to Medina the following year, and has been identified with the business since, operating at Medina, Norwalk, Cleveland and Crestline, es-





tablishing his present business in 1873. In 1868, December 28, he married Miss Mary Allen, a native of Medina Co., Ohio. They had two children; one living, viz., Ezra A. Mr. Mason's parents, Ezra and Lucy (Seymour) Mason, were natives of Massachusetts and Connecticut. They came to Medina Co., Ohio, in 1850, and, except four years' residence at Oberlin, have lived here since. They had two children; one living, viz., J. S. Mr. Ezra Mason had one child by a former marriage, viz., Ellen J.

O. H. McDOWELL, of McDowell Bros., drugs, books, etc., Medina; was born in Oxford, Chester Co., Penn., Sept 27, 1843, and lived there about six years, when, with his parents, he moved to Union Co., Penn., and lived there two years. They then came to Ohio, and rented a farm in Medina Co., and, soon after, bought a place in Wayne Co., and settled on the same, where young McDowell lived, assisting on the farm and attending school, until, in 1861, in August of that year, he enlisted in Co. I, 2d O. V. V. C., he being appointed Commissary Sergeant, and remained in the army until the close of the war, having re-enlisted in 1863. Upon his return from the army, he attended school in Seville for six months. He then came to Medina, where, in company with his brother (R. M.), he bought the drug business of A. M. Armstrong, which they have since continued, O. H. taking the active management of it. The firm is also interested in the Medina Evaporating Company. He was married, Dec. 13, 1866, to Miss Helen M., daughter of Hon. H. G. Blake, of Medina. Two children have been born to them. one of whom is living, viz., Helen Percy. Harry O. died June 2, 1880, aged 6 years 6 months and 21 days.

R. M. McDOWELL, Cashier Phoenix National Bank; P. O. Medina. The subject of this sketch was born on his father's farm in Chester Co., Penn., Oct. 13, 1837, and lived there until he was 7 years of age, when they moved to the village of Oxford, and resided there four years. They then moved to Juniata County, in the same State, where his father carried on a lumber and bark business for two years. During the latter year, R. M. spent a portion of his time canal-boating on the Susquehanna Canal. In 1851, the family moved to Ohio; they first stopped about six

years in Medina County, and then bought a farm in Wayne County. Our subject received a liberal education at the Seville Academy, and the Hayesville and Hudson schools. At the age of 17 he began teaching, and taught during the fall and winters thereafter for several years. In August, 1862, he enlisted in the 2d O. V. C., and the following spring he was commissioned a 1st Lieutenant, and by order of the Secretary of War, was transferred as an aide to the staff of Gen. E. B. Tyler, in which position he served until the close of the war. Feb. 16, 1863, he married Miss Elizabeth, daughter of the Hon. H. G. Blake, of Medina. Mr. McDowell was, at this time, located at Columbus, Ohio, and was soon after transferred to the Army of the Potomac, and from thence with Gen. Tyler to the 1st (separate) Brigade, 8th A. C., with headquarters first at Baltimore, then at the Relay House, and afterward, for a short time, served in the Department of Western Virginia. It was his good fortune to be so situated that his wife could accompany him during a portion of his term of service, which she did, their daughter Bessie being born at the Relay House in January, 1865. On his return from the army, he taught the Medina High School. In the following spring, he engaged in the drug and book business, with his brother, O. H. Their business was destroyed by the great fire in 1870; after which, and upon the completion of the Phoenix Block, they resumed the business and have continued the same since. They have also been identified in several other business interests of Medina. They, for eleven years, were the proprietors of and operated the Medina Cheese Factory. In 1873, Mr. McDowell engaged as Assistant Cashier in the Phoenix National Bank of Medina, and was made Cashier in 1876, upon the death of Mr. Blake, which position he still holds. In addition to his duties as Cashier, he has established and conducts an insurance agency, which represents many of the most popular companies. By his marriage, there has been four children—viz.: Bessie, born in the army at the Relay House, Maryland, H. G. Blake, Thomas Corwin and Kate, born in Medina, Ohio.

F. R. MANTZ, County Recorder; P. O. Medina; was born in Lynn Township, Lehigh Co., Penn., Aug. 31, 1833. In 1837, his parents and grandfather, Phillip Mantz, also an uncle, came to Ohio and settled upon some land in



Homer Township, the location being selected in 1836, by his uncle, Joseph Mantz. When about 14 years of age, F. R.'s parents moved to Harrisville Township, where he lived until 1852; during this time F. R. had worked on the farm and received his schooling in the schools of his district. In 1852, he engaged as a farm hand in Montville Township, receiving \$10 per month; the next summer he worked with his brother at the carpenter's and joiner's business. Aug. 31, 1854, he married Miss Phoebe J. Edson, she was born in Cuyahoga Co., Ohio. He continued at the carpenter's trade until Aug. 9, 1862, when he enlisted as a recruit in Company K, 42d O. V. I. (Garfield's regiment), with which command he served until it was mustered out; he was then transferred to Company E, 96th O. V. I., and served until the close of the war; prominent among the battles in which he took part are Arkansas Post, Vicksburg, Jackson, Mobile, Spanish Fort, Fort Blakely and others. After the war, he returned to Medina County and engaged in farming, which he continued until the fall of 1875, when he was elected on the Republican ticket as County Auditor, and was re-elected in the fall of 1878. Upon his election in 1875, he moved to Medina and has lived there since. His family consists of five members—the children are Corydon F., who is on his father's farm in Chatham Township; Cassius C., who is Assistant Recorder; Charlie A., at home attending school.

HON. ALBERT MUNSON, Probate Judge, Medina, whose portrait appears in this work, was born on his father's farm in Guilford Township, Medina Co., Ohio, Aug. 8, 1830, and lived at home until he became of age. His education was obtained in the schools of his district, except one short term at Sharon Academy. On becoming of age, he engaged as Clerk in the general merchandise business of Allen Howes, in Sharon Township, remaining in that position for sixteen months. He then returned to River Styx, where he became a member in the firm of Colborn & Munson, which continued for nine months; soon after this, Mr. Munson bought the old homestead, and farmed the same. In 1862, he was elected Colonel of the County Regiment of Militia. In 1869, he was elected on the Republican ticket, a Representative from Medina County to the State Legislature, and was re-elected in 1871, serving in all, four years.

As early as 1859, he began reading law, and read at times until 1873, when he was admitted a member of the bar by the Supreme Court at Columbus. But, owing to other business, he never devoted his time to the profession. In 1875, he was elected Director of the Ohio Farmers' Insurance Company, and served two years; he also acted as Adjuster for the company during that period. In the fall of 1878, he was elected Probate Judge, after which, he sold his farm and moved to Medina, where he has since lived. He married Miss Harriet Easton, she was born in Guilford Township. They have two children, viz.: Cora E. and Lyman E. His parents, Lyman and Nancy (Porter) Munson were natives of Westfield, Mass. They, with one child, came to Ohio by ox team in 1816, he walking the entire distance. He entered 160 acres of land on Fall Creek in Guilford Township, and resided there for ten years, during which time he made two trips to Massachusetts afoot; he then sold his place and bought wild land of Gen. Perkins, and cleared and made a farm of same; he also assisted in clearing in all, probably, 1,500 acres of wild land in his vicinity. He was one of the patriots of the war of 1812. The business of his life was farming. He died at the advanced age of 82, on his farm in Guilford Township, in 1863; his wife died about the year 1845. They had a family of seven children, of whom Allen is the only survivor.

LEWIS B. NETTLETON, farmer; P. O. Medina; was born in Litchfield Co., Conn., Oct. 23, 1807, and is the youngest of eight children born to Daniel and Eunice (Baldwin) Nettleton, natives of Old Milford, Conn. After marriage, they removed to Washington, Litchfield Co., and farmed in that vicinity until their death. Of the eight children, three remained in Connecticut, of whom one only is living. Five of the family came to Ohio, and settled in Medina Township, this county, between the years 1818-32. Of this family, three have celebrated their golden wedding. Lewis B. lived at home until he became of age. During that time, he assisted on the farm, and received a limited education at the district schools. He was married, April 15, 1829, to Miss Julia Baldwin, a native of Litchfield Co., and the eldest of a family of three children born to Gehial Baldwin. They were natives of Connecticut; also their parents. His father lived to be over 100 years





old. The August following their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Nettleton came to Cleveland, Ohio, by water; thence to Medina Township. Here he bought an improved farm of 60 acres, the same being the property of Gen. Northrop, and was the first farm cultivated by him in the county. He lived upon this farm until 1852, when he moved to Medina that his children might enjoy the school advantages of the town; but, in the fall of 1853, he returned to the farm, which, in the meantime, he had increased to about 350 acres, and upon which he conducted an extensive stock business. He remained on his farm until 1870, when he again removed to Medina, where he has resided ever since. In early days, he belonged to the militia, and rose from private in the ranks to the position of Lieutenant Colonel. He has been Assessor of the township, and has served as Director, Superintendent and Vice President of the County Agricultural Society. In 1872, he became President of the First National Bank of Medina, which office he retained during the existence of the bank. Seven children have been born to him, of whom six are living—Edwin, Civil Engineer for the Colorado Mortgage & Investment Co., of London; Hubert and Warren F., farmers in Medina Township; Jennie, now Mrs. Logan, lives in Connecticut; Austin G., lives on the old homestead in Medina Township; B. Franklin lives at home; Austria died Nov. 12, 1864.

NATHAN NETTLETON, retired, Medina; was born on his father's farm in Washington, Litchfield Co., Conn., Aug. 5, 1805, and is the seventh in a family of eight children born to Daniel and Eunice (Baldwin) Nettleton. They were natives of Milford, Conn., of which place their ancestors were pioneers. Daniel was a farmer. After his marriage, in 1789, he moved to Washington, and farmed there until his death, Jan. 21, 1829. His wife died at the same place, May 18, 1832. Nathan (our subject) lived at home until his father's death. Like others in those early days, his opportunity for obtaining an education was limited, he receiving but two terms at an academy, aside from a few winter terms at the district school. At the age of 18, he began teaching, and taught in the winters thereafter for a number of terms. April 26, 1832, he married Miss Laura Serene Logan, who is the third in a family of seven children born to Mathew and Laura (Sanford) Logan. They were natives of Connecticut; he of Washington,

Litchfield Co., as was his father Matthew. His grandfather, John, was an emigrant to that place from Scotland, among whose descendants are numbered several soldiers of the Revolution, one of the family, Abigail (Logan) Ford, celebrating her centennial birthday anniversary on the 15th of September, 1880. The old homestead of this family, in Connecticut, in which six successive generations have lived, is yet in good repair. Miss Laura Serene Logan lived at home until her marriage, which occurred at the age of 20. She early became an educator, having taught in all five terms of school before her marriage, after which she, with her husband, moved to Medina Co., Ohio, and settled on some wild land lying northeast of Medina village, which Mr. Nettleton had bought during a prospecting tour the year previous. They occupied a frame house he had ordered built upon his first trip, and lived in the same for forty-two years. This house is now the residence of his son, Matthew E. In 1874, they retired to Medina Village, where they have since lived. By this marriage, there are three children—Laura Helen, Matthew E. and Ursula Eusebia. Mr. Nettleton became a voter during the administration of John Quincy Adams, and voted for his re-election. He associated with the Whig, Anti-Slavery and Republican parties, remaining a member of the latter since its organization. Matthew Erskine, the only son, was married June 8, 1864, to Miss Ellen N. Wadsworth, a native of New York. Of this marriage there have been five children—Laura Sarah, Bertha Serene, Pearl Ellen, Hattie W. (deceased) and Edward W.

P. C. PARKER, contractor and bridge-builder, Medina. This gentleman was born in Hardin County, Ky., Sept. 6, 1821, and came to Ohio with his parents about 1827. They stopped about four years in Licking Co., and then came to Bath Township, now in Summit Co. In 1838 Mr. Parker went to Canandaigua, N. Y., where he worked for Mr. James Lyon, a millwright, in which business our subject showed an aptness that in three years made him foreman. In 1842, he returned to Ohio, and followed his business in this vicinity. Sept. 23, 1847, he married Miss Maria Bellus, a native of Vermont. She came to Ohio with her parents, who settled in Hinckley Township, Medina Co., in 1833. In 1849, Mr. Parker went to Kentucky, where he remained two years, during



which time he built the Spring Mills, later the location of a battle by that name, in which the rebel Gen. Zollicoffer was killed. He also built large mills at Harrodsburg. In 1851, he went to Michigan, where he lived one year. He then returned to this vicinity, and took charge of a mill he owned. In 1867, he went to Marquette, Mich., where he spent one year as overseer on the Government breakwater. In 1834, he built the covered bridge at Liverpool, and from that date forward he began turning his attention to that business, and has built many of the bridges of Medina, Cuyahoga, Summit and Lorain Cos., he building in iron or wood, and contracting for the complete job. In 1874, he moved to Medina Village, where he has since lived. About the year 1853, Mr. Parker was employed as an expert by mill-owners, fighting a patent known as the Parker patent water-wheel. Mr. Parker set forth that the patent was a detriment, and carried his point by his excellent judgment of the principles governing the mode of applying the power, and, by a skillfully constructed model, the jury were made perfectly acquainted with those principles and the fallacy of the claims of the patent. His parents, John and Olive (Foster) Parker, were natives of New York. They had a family of seventeen children, nine of whom are living.

EDWARD PERKINS, farmer; P. O. Weymouth; was born in New Haven Co., Conn., July 21, 1804. He was brought up on the farm. May 11, 1828, he married Miss Delight Smith, a native of the same county. Shortly after his marriage, he began working at carpentering, which he followed until 1833, when he moved West to Ohio, stopping one year in Portage Co., after which he came to Medina Co., and settled in the neighborhood of Weymouth, and has lived in that vicinity since, working at carpentering some fifteen years, after which he followed farming. June 11, 1876, he was called to mourn the death of his wife. Of their five children, but two are living, viz.: Edward S. and Sarah O. Mr. Perkins has served as Township Trustee and Justice of the Peace. He has taken an active interest in religious matters, and has been a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal Church for the past fifty years. His parents, Edward and Betsey (Peck) Perkins, were natives of New Haven Co., Conn. The business of their

life was farming. They came west to Ohio with their son Edward. They died in Medina County, Feb. 11, 1854, and Dec. 10, 1856, respectively. Of their two children but one is living, viz.: Edward.

HON. E. S. PERKINS, farmer; P. O. Weymouth; was born in Tallmadge, Summit Co., Ohio, July 7, 1833. The following year his parents settled near Weymouth, in Medina Co. E. S. was raised on the farm and lived with his parents until Aug. 3, 1856, when he married Miss Clara A. Stoaks, a native of Steuben Co., N. Y., and came to Medina Co. with her parents in 1844. Shortly after his marriage, he moved on the old homestead, and has managed the place since. He has been a member of the Board of Education of his district for the past fifteen years; he has also served as Township Trustee and Justice of the Peace. In 1875, he was elected a Representative, on the Republican ticket, of Medina Co., to the State Legislature, and was re-elected in 1877. During his first term he served as a member of the Committees on Public Works and Library; also appointed to fill vacancy on that of Finance; and during his second term served on the committees of Schools and School Lands, Insurance, the Joint Committee on Enrollment, of which he was Secretary, and the Select Committee of five to codify the school laws. He prepared and earnestly supported the bill aiming to reduce the price of school-books. In the spring of 1880, he was a candidate for nomination for State School Commissioner, but was defeated by D. B. De Wolf, the present incumbent, the vote standing 203½ to 209½. By his marriage, there have been nine children, of whom eight are living—E. A., foreman for King Iron Bridge Company, of Cleveland, Ohio; Mary D., Adaline H., James S., Bessie L., Willie L., Rubie E. and Morton O. All except E. A. live at home.

O. P. PHILLIPS, farmer; P. O. Medina; was born in Ontario Co., N. Y., Dec. 22, 1829. His father was a stonemason, and came to Huron Co., Ohio, in 1831, their location being included in the portion set off for Erie Co. In 1840, they came to Medina Co. and kept hotel at what was known as Wilson's, now Morse's Corners, in Westfield Township. Two years later, they moved to La Fayette Township and located on a 20-acre tract. In 1848, O. P. went back to Ontario Co., N. Y., where he worked





on the farm and taught school. In 1854, he came back to the old home in La Fayette Township, which he had bought of the heirs, his father having died in the fall of 1844. In 1859, Mr. Phillips sold his place and bought another in the southern part of the township, where he lived until 1873. In 1863, he served as Captain of Co. D, O. N. G.; they were called into service, and became Co. D, 166th O. V. I. They served four months. In the fall of 1872, he was elected Sheriff, and served one term. In 1873, he bought and occupied his present place. April 15, 1855, he married Miss Sarah S. Case, a native of Ontario Co., N. Y.; of their seven children, six are living—Fremont O., Frank O., Fred O., Elery O., Mary L. and Emma L.; J. E. died. Mr. Phillips' parents, Daniel and Achsah (Simmons) Phillips, were natives of Vermont and Massachusetts; they were of Scotch and English descent; they died in La Fayette Township, he in 1844, and she in 1848. Of their ten children, five are living, viz., Mrs. Silence S. White, of Norwalk, Ohio; Mrs. Amanda Badger, La Fayette Township; Mrs. Lydia J. Foskett, of Butler Co., Kan.; Mrs. Theresa A. Brooks, San Antonio, Texas, and O. P., here in Medina. The latter's grandfather, Zebelin Phillips, was a native of Vermont, and served for seven years in the Revolutionary War.

C. E. PARMELEE, Sheriff, Medina; was born in Liverpool, Medina Co., Ohio, Oct. 14, 1843. His father was engaged in the manufacture of woolens, he conducting the woolen-mill in Liverpool, also the flour and grist mill. Young Parmelee early began to assist in his father's woolen-mill, working in the summers and attending school during the winters until he became of age. He then attended two terms at the Commercial College of Oberlin, and, returning home, took charge of the carding and spinning room in his father's mills. In 1874, he was elected Justice of the Peace, and, in 1877, he resigned the office, taking his seat as Sheriff, to which office he was elected in the fall of 1876, and was re-elected in the fall of 1878. After his election in 1876, he moved to Medina, where he has since lived. Feb. 19, 1868, he married Miss Nellie A. Adams; she was born in Columbia, Lorain Co., Ohio. They have two children, viz., Edith F. and Albertine A.

DANIEL B. PRATT, farmer; P. O. Medina; was born in Oneida Co., N. Y., on the 26th of

June, 1810, on a farm where he was brought up, and lived until about the year 1840, with the exception of three years he spent on canal (boating). In 1840, he moved to Lorain Co., Ohio, and bought some wild land in connection with his brother Benjamin. They put up a log cabin and kept "bachelor's hall," clearing the land they had bought, which amounted to about 120 acres. He was married on the 21st of October, 1841, to Miss Fannie H. Herriek, a native of Jefferson Co., N. Y., but had removed with her father's family to Lorain Co. in 1835. The fruit of this union was five children, four of whom are living, viz., Jay D., Marian T., Charles W. and Henry O. After his marriage Mr. Pratt and his brother divided the land they had bought and cleared; the former occupied his portion until the spring of 1871, he then traded his place there, which had increased to 152 acres, for the place he now resides on, two miles northeast of Medina, and upon which he has since resided. His present place originally contained 225 acres, but he has sold off portions to his sons, retaining for himself 131 acres. Jay D. and Charles W. are married, and farming small tracts purchased from their father. Jay D. was born in Lorain Co., and lived at home until his marriage Dec. 30, 1868, to Miss Achsah Hamilton, a native of Medina Co. They have four children—Elzy, Etta, Adda and Harry. Charles W. was also born in Lorain Co., and lived at home until his marriage, Feb. 20, 1879, to Miss Minerva Clark, of Lorain Co. Mr. Pratt was formerly a Whig, and is now a Republican in politics. He has been a member of the Congregational Church for twenty-three years, and his wife a member for eighteen years.

G. W. REINHARDT, bakery and restaurant. Medina; was born in Wayne Co., Ohio, Aug. 25, 1850, and lived on the farm for fifteen years. He then apprenticed to the baker's trade with J. F. Redd, of Loudonville, for two years, and worked with him one year thereafter; and next worked one year in Asbland and two years in Seville. After which, he and his brother B. O., bought the bakery business of H. A. Thayer, in Medina. They did business under the firm style of Reinhardt Bros. for one year, after which Mr. G. W. Reinhardt conducted the business alone. He was doing business in the old Empire Block, which was destroyed by fire in February, 1877, his loss amounting to \$500 or \$600 over





and above his insurance. After the fire, he occupied a room in the American House, where he did business until April, 1880, when he moved into his present brick business stand. Aug. 19, 1874, he married Miss Catharine Gross, a native of Germany; she came to the United States with her parents while in her infancy; her folks settled in Ashland Co., Ohio. She was married in Wooster. Of the four children born to the marriage, two are living—Ethel and Edith, born Sept. 18, 1880; Gracie May and Harry G. died.

A. I. ROOT, apiarian, Medina; was born on his father's farm, near Medina, Ohio, in the year 1840. His early life was spent at home and attending school. In 1860, he engaged in the manufacture of silver watch-chains, rings, charms, etc., hiring a skilled workman from the East, who instructed him in the trade. The business was successful, and grew to employ from twelve to twenty men, who used about two hundred silver dollars per week in the manufacture of goods, which were shipped far and near. The business flourished most during the war, after which it was gradually curtailed, and made to give place to bee culture, a subject Mr. Root first became interested in in 1865. He secured a swarm and began to study the best modes of culture, and, though he met many discouraging circumstances, he was, by his energy and perseverance, led to success, and now stands at the head of his profession. In 1860, Mr. Root was married to Miss Susan Hall, a native of England. She came to this county when she was but 8 years of age. They have four children, viz., Earnest, born in 1862; Maud, in 1864; Constance, in 1872; and Carrie, in 1877.

JOHN A. RETTIG, retired, Medina; was born in Reichenbach, Germany, March 9, 1816, and lived there until 14 years of age, when he came with his parents to the United States and settled in Frederick City, Md., remaining there about two years, and then removed to Washington, Penn. Here John A. learned the saddle and harness making business. In 1836, he traveled, working as journeyman, visiting Kentucky, and, in 1841, came to Medina Co. and worked at his trade in Seville; later, worked at Wadsworth. In 1842, he came to Medina and opened a saddle and harness shop, a business he conducted for twenty-two years, when he sold out to Messrs. Renz & Brenner. In

1863, he became mail agent from Cleveland to Cincinnati, but, from illness, resigned the position after a few months. He also became Collector of Internal Revenue the same year (then 14th District of Ohio), and continued the same four years. In 1870, he served as Assistant Marshal in La Fayette, Medina, York and Litchfield Townships. He was married, Jan. 1, 1843, to Miss Caroline Case, a native of Rochester, N. Y., and came to Ohio with her parents about 1832. Since selling out his business, Mr. Rettig has not been actively engaged in business. His father, John Philip Rettig, was born near Frankfort-on-the-Main, Germany, Aug. 7, 1788, and died in Medina March 22, 1875. He married in 1811, and came to America in 1830, settling in Medina in 1846. He lived with his son, John A.; was a member of the Lutheran Church, and was much respected. His wife was Miss Ann Elizabeth Tracht, and was born in Germany Nov. 21, 1787; was married May 16, 1811, and died Sept. 23, 1876. They had four children, two of whom are living—John A. (the subject) and John, who lives in Evansville, Ind.

SAMUEL SCOTT, wool-buyer and auctioneer, Medina; is a native of Pennsylvania. He was born in Washington Co. Feb. 28, 1827, and is the third child of a family of eight children born to Alexander and Sarah (Moffet) Scott. They were natives of Pennsylvania. He was a wagon-maker by trade. In 1831, they moved to Wayne Co., Ohio, where they followed farming until their death, in 1845 and 1846 respectively. Our subject lived at home until the death of his parents. He then apprenticed to the carpenter's trade, serving for three years, after which he did journeyman's work for about two years, when he began work at millwrighting, at which he worked several years, during which time he came to Medina Co., and Jan. 25, 1853, he married Miss Adaline Truman, a native of Medina Co., Ohio. She died Oct. 8, 1856. They had no children. April 20, 1857, he married Mrs. Spitzer, formerly Miss Melissa Perkins, a native of New York. They have two children—Etta A., now Mrs. Richardson, of Ashtabula, Ohio, and Elmer J. Mr. Scott worked at his trade in La Fayette Township until 1860. They then came to Medina, and, soon after, began buying wool, which he has followed ever since. He also has auctioneered from the time he apprenticed to car-



pening. In March, 1867, he bought and occupied his present place, located on the north side of Medina. In 1875, Mr. Scott was elected Sheriff of Medina Co. and served for two years. His majority was seventy-two, and he was the first Democrat elected to the office since before the war.

J. H. SEDGWICK, farmer; P. O. Weymouth; is the second child of a family of three children born to Hiram and Elzira S. (Merriman) Sedgwick. These parents were natives of Connecticut, where they were married and all their children born. In 1831, the family moved to Monroe Co., N. Y., where they farmed for four years. They then came to Medina Co., Ohio, and settled in the vicinity of Weymouth, where, in January, 1875, Mr. Hiram Sedgwick died. His wife is yet living with her granddaughter at Weymouth. Our subject was born in Connecticut Jan. 9, 1827, and lived with his parents twenty-two years. Jan. 6, 1848, he married Miss Louisa E. Francis, a native of Granger Township, Medina Co., Ohio. After his marriage, he farmed his father-in-law's place for ten years. He then came to his present place, located one mile from Weymouth, and has lived there since. He has served in the office of Township Trustee, and, in 1870, he was elected Justice of the Peace, and held the office for nine years. He was drafted during the war, but furnished a substitute. By this marriage, there have been born four children—William F. (married, and lives in Weymouth), Lucy R. (now Mrs. Stoddard, of York Township), Pearl L. and Albert L. (live at home). Mrs. Sedgwick's parents, Rhodes and Hannah (Taylor) Francis, were natives of Ontario Co., N. Y. They were born Dec. 12, 1800, and Feb. 10, 1802, and married Sept. 7, 1826, in New York. They came to Granger Township, Medina Co., Ohio, the year they were married, and followed farming there until their deaths, Feb. 14, 1837, and Feb. 7, 1838. Of their two children, Mrs. Sedgwick alone survives.

W. F. SIPHER, brick manufacturer, Medina; is a native of Wurtemberg, Germany; he was born in Esslingen Sept. 7, 1833. He early learned the shoemaker's trade in his father's shop, and, in 1848, in company with his brother Christian (aged 16), came to the United States; they entered at New York, and the following spring came to Medina via Buffalo and Cleveland, they having relatives in

Liverpool Township. W. F. worked as journeyman at his trade in Medina until 1853. He then, in partnership with Mr. B. Morse, opened a shop—firm Sipher & Morse; they continued nearly one year, when Mr. Sipher sold out, and worked as jour some three years. He then opened a shop and conducted the same until 1873; when he closed out and engaged in the manufacture of brick, in which he employs about seven men, they turning out over one-half million brick per annum. In the fall of 1863, he joined a company of National Guards, who were called into active service in May, 1864, they forming Co. E. 166th O. V. I. and served until September following, Mr. Sipher being chief musician in the regiment. In 1871, he was elected Corporation Treasurer, and has been re-elected each term since. Aug. 1, 1853, he was married to Miss Jane L. Gile. She was born in Massachusetts, and came to Medina Co. with her parents about the year 1839; by this marriage there are six children, viz., Clara B., Carl A., William H., Newel J., Mary and John A. Carl A. is married, and in the employ of Messrs. Morgan, Root & Co., wholesale dry goods, Cleveland. William H. bought the grocery business of E. D. Munn, in Medina, and has conducted same since 1878.

E. E. SHEPARD, dry goods, Medina; was born in Franklin Co., Vt., Nov. 9, 1834. At the age of 15, he engaged as clerk in the dry goods business in St. Albans, Vt., since which time he has been identified with the trade. In 1852, he came to Cleveland, Ohio, and clerked five years with Lewis & Burton, after which he formed the partnership of Lewis & Shepard. In 1860, he came to Medina, and lived here two years, moving to Akron, where he remained until 1877, when he again came to Medina. Nov. 9, 1863, he married Miss Hattie Chidester; she was born in Medina, Ohio. They have three children—Sarah B., Jessie P. and Hattie.

R. S. SHEPARD, dry goods, crockery, glassware, wall-paper, floor oil-cloths, etc., Medina; is a native of Vermont. He was born in Franklin Co. April 1, 1837. His early life was spent on the farm, and his schooling was confined to those of his district. On becoming of age, he moved to Cleveland, Ohio, and engaged as clerk with Lewis & Shepard, doing a dry-goods business, and from this time thereafter he has been identified with that trade. About





1872, he engaged in the business in Medina, in partnership with C. J. Warner, the firm Warner & Shepard continuing about six years; he then withdrew, and, upon the completion of the Barnard Block, he occupied the corner room, where he has done business since. He married Miss Hattie Loring; she is a native of Ohio. They have one child—Carrie E.

D. H. SHAW, proprietor Union Hotel, Medina; was born in Dunville, Canada East, Feb. 2, 1818, and is the oldest of a family of ten children born to H. D. and Lucy (Burbank) Shaw. They were born in New Hampshire, and were married in Canada, whither they moved with their parents when young. The business of their life was farming. In 1848, they moved to Wayne Co., Ohio, and returned to Canada some years later, where they resided until their deaths. D. H. lived at home until he was 20 years of age. He then moved with a family by the name of Parsons to Wayne Co., Ohio. While in Canada, he learned the boot and shoe making trade, and followed the same in Wayne Co. for eighteen years. In 1859, he moved to Lodi, Medina Co., and worked at his trade there for eight years. He then kept hotel there for three years, when he occupied a farm he had bought in Litchfield Township, and the following year he moved to Medina, buying the Union Hotel, which he has conducted since. In 1877, he built a large, new house, which has greatly increased his facilities for doing business.

THOMAS SHAW, farmer and stock-raiser; P. O. Medina; was born on his father's farm in St. Lawrence Co., N. Y., July 22, 1833, and is the fourth in a family of nine children born to William and Hannah (Peacock) Shaw, who were natives of England. They were married there, and came with two children to the United States about the year 1829, settling as above in St. Lawrence Co., where they lived until 1834, when they came to Ohio, and settled in the woods in York Township, Medina Co. They bought wild land, and cleared and improved a farm out of it, upon which they lived eighteen years, when they sold out; bought and occupied a farm one mile south of Medina, upon which they lived until the death of Mr. Shaw, Sept. 2, 1869. Mrs. Shaw then moved to the town of Medina, where she lived until her death, Nov. 26, 1880. Thomas (the subject), lived with his parents until his marriage, Oct. 26, 1866, to Miss Martha A. Abbott, a native of Montville Township,

Medina Co., and was the youngest of a family of three children, born to Leverett and Adaline (Lyman) Abbott. They were natives of New York and Connecticut, and came to Medina Co. at an early day, and followed farming until their death. He died Feb. 8, 1878, and she died in November, 1861. Mr. Shaw has two children—Willis L. and Addie May. He has 100 acres of land, well improved, principally the result of his own labor and energy. Mr. Shaw is a Democrat.

ANDREW S. WALKER, farmer; P. O. Medina; was born in Dalton, Mass., Feb. 1, 1820, and is the oldest son of Seth S. and Hannah (Curtis) Walker. He remained at home until he became of age, when he went to Mellville, N. Y., where he attended school for about two years. He then entered Oberlin College, Ohio, remaining about eight months, after which he went to Michigan and apprenticed himself to the carpenter and joiner's trade, which he followed there for about twenty-nine years. He was married, Jan. 1, 1849, to Miss Olive A. Crandall, a native of Wayne Co., N. Y. For ten years they made their home in Adrian, Mich., where he followed his trade. He then removed to Hudson, Mich., where he opened a meat market, which business he continued ten years. He then removed to Toledo, where he worked at his trade, and also did some butchering. In 1878, he came to the old homestead, and has managed the same ever since. His marriage was productive of four children, of whom three are living—Elmer D. and Cass B. both live in Toledo; Zula B. lives at home. Mr. Walker has always been a Democrat.

SETH S. WALKER, retired, Medina; was born in New Salem, Hampshire Co., Mass., Sept. 2, 1794. He was bound out on the farm until he was 18 years old. In 1814, he enlisted under Capt. Leonard, in 40th Regt. "Sea Fencibles," and served until the close of the war, in the early part of 1815. He then engaged at \$14 per month to a brick-maker for the summer. The next year he went to Dalton and engaged in burning kilns at various points, which business he followed for nineteen years. He also made brick for himself at Dalton, Mass. In 1835, he came to Ohio and settled on his present place. He came by team via Michigan, and was forty odd days on the road. Bought land from a party who had some improvements, and has lived on it ever since. While a citizen



of Dalton, Mass., he joined a militia company, of which he was made drummer, and was promoted step by step until he became Captain of the company. July 14, 1817, he was married to Miss Hannah Curtis, a native of Massachusetts. Eight children was the result of this marriage, all of whom are still living—Andrew S., lives on the old homestead; Washington, lives in Lorain Co.; Seth S., Jr., lives in Lenawee Co., Mich.; George, lives adjoining the homestead; William, lives in Medina Township; Harriet, now Mrs. Knapp, lives at Hudson, Mich.; Martha C., now Mrs. Buck, lives at Adrian, Mich.; Mary, now Mrs. Vandorne, lives at Hadley, Mich. Mr. Walker and his good wife, after a long life of toil and care, are spending the evening of their days on the old homestead with their son Andrew, who kindly cares for them in their declining years. The old gentleman has been a life-long Democrat, and cast his first Presidential vote for James Monroe, whose signature was on his land warrant, received for services in the war of 1812. Jesse Walker, his father, was one of four brothers who emigrated to America in an early day. They all served in the Revolutionary war, and all were slain but Jesse. The subject, Capt. Seth S., served in the war of 1812, as already noted, from which he was honorably discharged. July 9, 1867, he and his wife celebrated their golden wedding, at which were gathered children and grandchildren to the number of thirty-six, together with numerous friends. It was the first golden wedding in Medina, and the Rev. Mr. Shanks renewed the matrimonial bonds of the aged couple, and closed the ceremonies by an appropriate prayer.

WILLIAM WITTER, farmer; P. O. Medina; was born on his father's farm in Granger Township, Medina Co., Ohio, April 26, 1837. He is the second of a family of ten children born to William H. and Catharine Randall Witter, mentioned elsewhere in this work. Our subject lived at home until he became of age. After which he worked on the farm summers and taught school winters. He also acted for a number of years as agent for some agricultural implements, and also was general agent for a book entitled "Randall's Travels in the Holy Land." Nov. 24, 1864, he married Sarah M. Huntley, a native of Sharon Township, Medina Co., Ohio. After his marriage, he began farming his farm, which he had previously bought.

In 1868, in company with Mr. G. P. Huntley, he engaged in the jewelry business at Clyde, Ohio, where he remained until the following spring, when he returned to his farm, which is located about three miles east of Medina. Mr. Witter has served as Assessor for two terms; he has also been Township Trustee for several terms. His property consists of 103 acres, which he has earned principally by his own labor. By the marriage, there have been five children—Alicia E., William P., Frances M., Harry S. and Ezra W.

B. H. WOOD, of B. H. Wood & Co., lumber, coal, wool and produce, Medina; was born in Worcester, Mass., Feb. 19, 1828, and lived there about thirteen years. The family then moved to Terre Haute, Ind., where they remained one year. They then moved to Richfield, in Summit Co., Ohio, where his father conducted a mercantile business. B. H. assisted in the business, and, in 1844, became a partner of the firm of B. Wood & Son. Shortly after the war, Mr. B. Wood withdrew, and B. H. conducted the business until 1872, when he sold out and came to Medina, where, in company with his son, H. O. Wood, he established the present business, under the firm name of B. H. Wood & Co. In May, 1848, he married Miss C. M. Oviatt, a native of Vincennes, Ind.

H. O. WOOD, of B. H. Wood & Co., lumber, coal, wool and produce, Medina; was born in Greencastle, Ind., March 29, 1853. He early began in mercantile pursuits, assisting in the store. Upon coming to Medina in 1872, he became a partner in the firm of B. H. Wood & Co. In the fall of 1875, he went to Brazil, South America, where he remained about one year, during which time he owned and worked a diamond mine about 800 miles inland from Rio De Janeiro, in which business he was fairly successful, but which he abandoned in consequence of the floods, characteristic of that region during the wet season. He left his mine in November, and arrived in Medina, Ohio, in March following. May 29, 1878, he married Miss Henrietta Orrok, who was born in New York City. They have one child—Walter.

S. B. WOODWARD, lawyer, Medina; was born on a farm in Summit Co., Ohio, Oct. 26, 1820. His father died in September of the same year. The following year, he and his mother came to Medina Co., living with his grandfather in Granger Township. In 1859, Mr. Woodward





came to Medina and read law with Messrs. Hills and Prentiss, and during the same year he was admitted a member of the bar, he having previously read at home from the time he became of age. Soon after being admitted, he became a partner with the Hon. H. G. Blake, and continued with him through several firm styles until 1876, when Mr. Blake died. After which, the firm of Woodward & Lacey was formed, and later, Mr. Joseph Andrew became a member of the firm—Woodward, Andrew & Lacey. The latter withdrawing in 1879, the firm style became Woodward & Andrew, they continuing at the present time. In 1861, Mr. Woodward was elected Prosecuting Attorney for the county, and was re-elected in 1863, and again elected to the same position in 1879. He has also served as Mayor of Medina. In 1849, he married Miss Mary F. Swan; she was born in Canada, and came to Sharon Township, Medina Co., when young. Her parents, Silas and Sallie (Burroughs) Swan, were natives of New Hampshire. Mr. Woodward's parents, Stephen and Abigail (Hills) Woodward, were natives of Vermont and New York. They were married in Granger Township, Medina Co., in November, 1819, and were probably the first couple married in that township. He died in Portage Co., Ohio. Mrs. Abigail (Hills) Woodward died in Medina Co., in 1856. They had but one child—S. B.

A. R. WHITESIDE, stationery, books, wall paper and notions, Medina; is a native of Pennsylvania. He was born on a farm in Chester Co. Feb. 28, 1818, and soon after, his parents moved to Jefferson Co., Ohio, where they farmed for twelve years. In 1830, they moved to Guilford Township, Medina Co., Ohio, making the trip by team in five days. They bought 73 acres near Seville and occupied same. In 1838; our subject apprenticed to the carpenter and joiner's trade, and served two years; he then worked about one year at his trade, when he entered the Western Reserve College, at Hudson, and remained there for three years, after which he read medicine with Dr. Witter, of Seville, for two years. He then concluded to discontinue his study of medicine, and began working at his trade. In 1851, he and his brother James engaged in the cabinet business, and later, Mr. David Johnson became a member of the firm, Whiteside & Johnson. Dec. 24, 1859, Mr. Whiteside met with an accident in his mill, from which he lost his arm. In the fall of

1862, he was elected Auditor, and served two terms. Upon his election, he moved to Medina, where he has since lived. June 24, 1845, he married Mrs. Marks, formerly Miss Mary McCurdy; she was born in Pennsylvania. They had two children, viz., Thomas A., now clerking in his father's store, and Mary E., now Rev. Mrs. Kerr, living in Logan Co., Ohio. Mrs. Whiteside had three children by her former marriage, of whom but one is living—Samuel J. Marks, living in Doylestown, Ohio; of the two deceased, William I. served in the 8th O. V. I. until his death at the battle of Antietam. Mr. Whiteside's parents, Thomas and Mrs. Ann Russell (Neil) Whiteside, were natives of Chester Co., Penn.; they died in Seville in March, 1864; of their eight children, but two are living—A. R. and William; the latter lives in Wabash, Ind. Mrs. Thomas Whiteside had one child by her former marriage—Jane Neil.

PHILIP WARREN, proprietor American House, Medina; was born in Berkshire Co., England, in April, 1828, and is the son of Edward and Mirah Warren. They came to the United States about the year 1836. They settled in Cuyahoga Co., Ohio, where our subject lived the greater part of his time until 1868, when he came to Medina and bought the American House, which he conducted until 1875. He then sold out and moved to Collingwood, where he built the hotel known as the Warren House, and conducted the same until 1878. He then sold out and returned to Medina, buying back his former property (the American House), and has conducted the same since. In connection with the house is a first-class livery. A free omnibus attends all trains, and the house enjoys a full share of the patronage of the traveling public.

W. H. WITTER, farmer; P. O. Medina; whose portrait appears in this work, is a son of William and Beulah (Carter) Witter; they were natives of Connecticut, and marrying, moved in 1818, to Ontario Co., N. Y., where Mrs. Witter died. Four children were born of this union, two of whom, W. H. and Warren B., are living. Mr. Witter married, for his second wife, Miss Annis Pickett, a native of Connecticut, who is still living, at the age of 84, on the old homestead in New York, with her stepson, Warren B. Of this second marriage, two children were born—Rebecca and Beulah. The subject of this sketch was born in Connecticut





Jan. 20, 1811; moved with the family to New York, and remained there until the age of 26. In 1837, he moved to Ohio, settling in Granger Township, in Medina Co. The journey was made by team, consuming fourteen days on the way. Here he bought 50 acres, built a good frame house and barn, and worked the place for some eight years. He then sold out and bought 140 acres in Montville Township, where he lived until the spring of 1878, when he moved into the village of Medina. Dec. 16, 1832, he married Miss Catharine Randall, a native of New London Co., Conn., being born Jan. 16, 1815. Ten children have been born to them, seven of whom are living—Edwin R., lives in Polk Co., Iowa, a farmer; William, lives in Medina Co., Ohio; David A., lives in Montville Township; Sarah S., now Mrs. Hill, lives in Montville Township; Henry W., lives in Montville Township; Esther E., now Mrs. Collins, lives in Wood Co., Ohio; Cora B., now Mrs. Cole, lives in La Fayette Township. Mrs. Witter's parents, James (born in 1778) and Joana (born in 1780) (Pemberton) Randall, were natives of Connecticut. He was a blacksmith by trade, a business he followed until late in life. In 1815, he moved with his family to New York State, and, in 1840, they came to Ohio, settling in Granger Township, in this county. After following the business of farming here for a number of years, they moved to Richfield, Summit Co., Ohio, where Mr. Randall died, March 12, 1849, and his wife Aug. 8, 1854. Four out of seven children born to them are living—Pemberton, living in La Fayette Township; Delano P., living in Sharon Township; David A., living in Cleveland, Ohio; Catharine, now Mrs. Witter, in Medina village.

FRANK YOUNG, physician, Weymouth; is the oldest of a family of four children born to Robert and Abigail (Reese) Young; was born on his father's farm in Granger Township, Medina Co., Ohio, Sept. 13, 1843, where he lived for seventeen years, when he went to Illinois, and worked on a farm about six months, and thence he went to Michigan, where he lived about one year. Aug. 11, 1862, he enlisted for three years in the 25th Mich. V. I., and served until the close of the war. He was with his regiment in the siege of Knoxville, battle of Resaca, Burnt Hickory, Kenesaw Mountain, Peach Tree Creek, Dalton, Atlanta campaign, Nashville, Wilmington, N. C., Raleigh, and the surrender of Joe Johnston's army; in all, he was in twenty-two regular engagements. He was discharged at Jackson, Mich., after which he came home. Feb. 22, 1866, he married Miss Hattie Lendsay, a native of Summit Co., Ohio. After his marriage, he bought and farmed a place near the old homestead. In 1869, he took a course in the Cleveland Medical College, graduating in 1872; after which, he began the practice in his present place. By his marriage, there have been two children, of whom one is living—Sadie J. Mrs. Young's parents, James and Sarah W. (Woodley) Lendsay, were natives of Vermont and Pennsylvania; he came to Summit Co., Ohio, in the year 1818, and she came to Granger Township about 1839. Her parents, George and Sarah (Green) Woodley, were natives of Pennsylvania; he died in Granger Township, Medina Co., Ohio, in 1852; she died in Weymouth, about 1872. Of seven children, five are living, but one of whom (Mrs. Lendsay) is living in this county. Mr. James Lendsay died in 1857. There was but one child by the marriage, viz., Hattie, now Mrs. Young.





## WADSWORTH TOWNSHIP.

DR. GEORGE A. BABBITT, physician and surgeon, *Western Star*; received his first instruction in the common schools of Bethel, Windsor Co., Vt., the place of his nativity, afterward attending the West Randolph Academy, spending his vacations in assisting with the farm-work and learning the business connected with a printing office, becoming quite proficient, in a short time, as a typo. He was born Dec. 30, 1852. His ancestors were of that good old New England stock of English-Scotch descent. His parents, Simeon C. and Emily K. (McKinstry) Babbitt, were also natives of Bethel, Vt. At about the age of 20 years, George began the study of medicine, in West Randolph, with Dr. C. L. Stewart, with whom he remained one year; then attended one term of lectures at Dartmouth College; then entered the Long Island College Hospital at Brooklyn, N. Y., from which place he graduated in June, 1875, receiving the appointment immediately of Resident Surgeon, which position he occupied for one year, treating, during that time, about twenty thousand cases. From Brooklyn, he went to Los Angeles, Cal., where he engaged in the practice of medicine for some months with a young medical friend; but, on account of poor health, was compelled to seek a different climate. After visiting for a time in Northeastern Ohio, he came to his present location at *Western Star* in October, 1877, where he has established himself in an extensive practice. He is a member of the Summit County Medical Association, also of the Northeastern Ohio. He is a staunch Republican, at present holding an important office in the village, with the respect and good wishes of a large circle of friends.

A. M. BECK, of A. C. Beck & Son, boot, shoe and leather store, Wadsworth; was born June 3, 1843, in Wadsworth; is a son of A. C. and Mary (Miller) Beck, the former a native of Pennsylvania, the latter a native of Wadsworth. His father came to this place about the year 1842, and engaged in the tanning and currying business, in which he continued until about the year 1862, when he engaged in the boot, shoe and leather business, in a small frame building

on Main street, north of where their large and commodious building now stands, in which they are now transacting business. They built and moved into their present room in 1870. The subject of this sketch attended school in Wadsworth until he was about 18 years of age, when he enlisted in Company I, 2d O. V. C., in which he served two and one-half years, then was transferred to the 103d O. V. I., in which he served until his discharge, Aug. 20, 1864, after having served faithfully his term, with the exception of one month, in all parts of the invaded country. He was married in March, 1877, to Miss Jennie Fasig, daughter of John Fasig, of West Salem; there have been no children. Mr. Beck has held the office of township Clerk, and is now serving his second term as Village Treasurer. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

JOHN A. CLARK, publisher, Wadsworth; was born on the 7th day of January, 1837, in Guilford Township, Medina Co., Ohio; he was the oldest son of Aaron Clark, who had married Susannah Rigelman. His father died in 1848, and his mother is still living. The care of the family largely devolved upon him, which, with the scanty means possessed by the pioneers of those days, limited his education; Though his passion for reading, and strong desire to penetrate the mysteries that present themselves to man, impelled him to acquire, at least, the rudiments of a fair education of a practical character. At the age of 20 years, he attended the Seville Academy, where he stood among the first in his classes. For about twelve years he taught school during the winter season, and labored on the farm during the summer. In May, 1860, he married Emily U. Calhoun, from which union five children were born, three daughters and two sons, all living. In the spring of 1866, the family moved to Wadsworth, where Mr. Clark started the *Wadsworth Enterprise*, a weekly local paper, of which he has been the editor ever since. He has always been a close student, and active in all his efforts. The business grew gradually





until 1874, when he purchased a child's paper, which added very largely to his business, and for a time he employed thirty hands, and made large investments. The hard times finally reached him, and, being unable to realize from his investments, the business rapidly fell off, and Mr. Clark suffered reverses, though he bore them with commendable fortitude during the winter of 1869 and 1870; he was employed as Principal of the village schools, and took the first steps toward organizing them under the Union system, with satisfactory results. Soon after his arrival in Wadsworth, he was chosen to the office of Village Clerk, and since then has constantly been honored with office of some kind—Clerk of village, Clerk of township, Councilman and Mayor of the village, from 1872 to 1874, and can point with pride to all his official records. The energy and public spirit that Mr. Clark has always manifested, his devotion to temperance and other moral and religious principles, have placed him in the advance on those questions; but, as a matter of course, antagonistic interests are arrayed against him in all their power. He is also an active Republican, and stands as a conspicuous citizen; he is at present editor of the *Enterprise*, member of the Village Council, and as a Notary Public gives some attention to law and conveyancing.

W. P. CURTIS, druggist, Wadsworth; was born Oct. 26, 1822, in Onondaga Co., N. Y. He is a son of Cyrus and Orra (Lawrence) Curtis, who moved to the eastern part of this township quite early in its settlement, and engaged in farming for a few years. His mother died April 19, 1826, when he went to live with an intimate friend of hers, who came with the family to this State. He attended the district school until about 16 years of age, and afterward attended the academy at Sharon, this county, for several terms, then attended the academy at Wadsworth for a time, and then engaged in teaching for several terms, after which he began his mercantile pursuits, clerking in Sharon for about ten years, when he moved to Seville, where he engaged in the drug business, and lived for about seven years. At the expiration of that time, he sold out and moved to Wadsworth, where he purchased the property in which he is now transacting business. He was married, May 28, 1856, to Ardelia Lyman, daughter of Elijah and Margaret

(Pope) Lyman, who resided in Cuyahoga Co., Ohio. By this union, there was born unto them one child—Willie Lyman, born Sept. 19, 1861, and died Nov. 26, 1871. Mr. Curtis has been a prominent and respected citizen of this place ever since his removal here.

D. E. CRANZ, physician, Wadsworth; was born Oct. 31, 1854; is a son of William and Mary (Druschal) Cranz, the latter a native of Pennsylvania, the former of Germany—both, however, moving to this State in early life, residing, after marriage, in Holmes Co. for several years, afterward moving to Summit Co., where they now reside. Dr. Cranz enjoyed the advantages of a district school until about 17 years of age, and afterward attended Buchtail College, at Akron, two years, beginning the study of medicine with Dr. Childs, with whom he studied four years, graduating, in the meantime, at Hahnemann Medical College, Chicago, Ill., in February, 1877, and locating, March 14, 1877, in Wadsworth, where he has been practicing ever since, being the only homœopathic physician in the place, and has established a large practice. He was married, Feb. 26, 1880, to Mary E. Butts, born July 28, 1857, whose parents were John and Mary Ann (Leacock) Butts, who were natives of Pennsylvania. They moved to this county in 1852, and engaged in hotel-keeping at Wadsworth until about 1864, when the mother died. The father then went to Ashland, where he engaged in the restaurant business. Mrs. Butts embraced the opportunity for educating herself, attending the Presbyterian Institute at Wyoming, Penn.; also, the Wyoming Seminary, at Kingston, Penn. Dr. Cranz is a member of the Reformed Church; his wife, of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Both are consistent Christians, and esteemed by their neighbors.

THOMAS JEFFERSON DAGUE, minister, Wadsworth. Dague's Collegiate Institute is very pleasantly located in the village of Wadsworth. Its grounds consist of about 10 acres of land, a part of which is beautifully laid out in walks and drives, and ornamented with evergreens and other trees, and clusters of shrubs and flowers. The main building is a massive brick, 65x35 feet, three stories high above the basement, and contains about thirty rooms. The first floor is devoted to the use of the school, for recitation and waiting rooms; the second contains the chapel and family rooms of



the Principal; the third is devoted to the use of the assistant teachers and boarding students. The original cost of the property was about \$17,000. The total expenses of a student boarder in any department, exclusive of books, clothing and traveling expenses, are \$200. The institute was organized in 1876, at Chillicothe, Ohio, and graduated its first class in 1877. The object of the institute is threefold: 1. To prepare young men most thoroughly for admission to our best colleges. 2. To provide a thorough course of collegiate instruction for young ladies. 3. To train young men and women who may not have either the means or inclination to finish a collegiate course; for the various avocations of practical life. The plan of organization adopted was that of the leading preparatory schools of the East. There being a felt need of a first-class institution of this kind in the West, a correspondence was opened with about twenty of the best Eastern schools for secondary instruction, which resulted in the present organization and course of instruction. Its subsequent history has justified the plan adopted. During the first three years of its existence, though laboring under great disadvantages in the way of inconvenient grounds and buildings, it attained quite a reputation among the best educators of this State, and won for itself no low rank among the best of our preparatory schools. In 1879, the Institute was removed to Wadsworth, where the present elegant grounds and buildings were purchased for its use by Mr. M. D. Dague, of Doylestown, Ohio, giving it facilities which, with an able board of instruction, give it a first-class standing among the educational institutes of the State. Thomas Jefferson Dague, A. M., the founder and present Principal, is the second son of M. D. and Elizabeth K. (McElheim) Dague, of Doylestown, Ohio. His paternal ancestors were of German-English descent. His great grandfather Dague (or Deg, as it was then spelled) was born on the sea while his parents were en route from Germany to America. His grandfather, Gabriel Dague (or Daga, as he spelled it), belonged to the pioneers of this region, having settled among the first in Milton Township, Wayne Co., Ohio, along with his two brothers, Michael and Frederick, accompanied also by other relatives, all emigrating from Washington Co., Penn. He was a man noted for his sterling good sense, and many excellent qualities of

mind and heart. In early life, he became a member of that branch of the Baptist Church called the Dunkards, in which communion he lived a humble, pious life, and died a triumphant death, at the age of about 80 years. His wife, Rachel Howe, was a niece of the celebrated English General of that name, who figured so conspicuously in the war of the Revolution. She was a lady of excellent sense and judgment, well educated, and of very refined manners. She was, through a long life, a consistent member of the Presbyterian Church, and in that faith died a triumphant death, at about the same age as her husband, having survived him some years. The maternal ancestors of Prof. Dague are of Scotch-Irish descent. His grandfather, Thomas D'Armon McElheim, furnishes the Scottish, and his grandmother, Margaret Aiken, the Irish, element. These, in their younger days, came also as pioneers to this region, from Center Co., Penn., and settled in Chippewa Township, Wayne Co. They both lived and died members of the Presbyterian Church, esteemed and honored by all who knew them. Mr. McElheim was a man of more than ordinary influence in the community where he resided, having held for many years the office of Justice of the Peace in Chippewa Township. Both died but a few years ago, at the age of more than 80 years. The father and mother of the subject of this sketch were, respectively, the second son and the second daughter of their respective parents; both natives of Pennsylvania, but migrated with their parents to this State when quite small, were brought up in the same neighborhood, and in due time were united in marriage by Rev. Varnum Noyes, of Seville. They are still living, honored citizens of Doylestown, Ohio. Their second son, the subject of this sketch, was born Dec. 1, 1843, in Chippewa Township, Wayne Co., Ohio, on what is known as the Slagle farm. In early life, he displayed a fondness for books, being averse to farming pursuits, the occupation of his father. His first lessons at school were taken at the old north schoolhouse, in Wadsworth Township, his father having moved to what was then known as the Agard farm, about two and one-half miles northeast of Wadsworth Village. He afterward attended the village school, when 8 years of age, when his father purchased the old Griswold farm, in Norton, Summit Co., Ohio, near Western Star. He there attended the





public school during the winter, his summers being spent on the farm, until his 18th year, when he set out as a teacher, his first school being near Arlington, Hancock Co., Ohio, in an old log barn, at \$22.50 a month without board. During this winter, the political troubles of the country reached their climax, and the war for the Union broke out. Fired with the enthusiasm of the times, he enlisted on the 22d of August following, as a private soldier in Company G, 120th O. V. I., but was taken severely ill at Camp Mansfield, and was allowed to return home on furlough, where he remained for months, just on the verge between life and death. In the month of July, 1863, he rejoined the regiment in the rear of Vicksburg, arriving just the day before the surrender. From this time on, he served in the ranks, participating in the battles at Jackson, Miss., Snaggy Point, La., and Blakely, Ala. He was one of those on board the ill-fated steamer City Belle, but was fortunate enough to make good his escape; he was then transferred to the 104th O. V. I., and afterward to the 48th O. V. V. I. where he remained until the expiration of his term of service; he was mustered out on the 14th day of October, 1865. Engaged in business in the South until the fall of 1866, when ill-health obliged him to return North. During the whole of his army life, his fondness for books and study never left him, and even on the most tiresome marches there was found a place in his knapsack for his favorite books. He was also a regular correspondent of the press. Upon his return home, he devoted himself to teaching in the public schools for a time, and then opened a private academy in Doylestown. In the fall of 1869, he closed his institution, and entered as a student of Miami University, from which place he was graduated as a Bachelor and Master of Arts, in June, 1873. On the 26th of December preceding this event, he was married to Miss Martha Josephine Reid, daughter of the late Andrew Reid, Esq., and Sarah C. Kelso, of Rockbridge, Va. Immediately upon his graduation, he was elected Principal of the Old Salem Academy, which position he occupied nearly four years, when he resigned his position, and established what is known as Dague's Collegiate Institute, at Chillicothe, Ohio. Since removing to Wadsworth, he has been licensed to preach, by the Presbytery of Cleveland, with a view to fully entering the work of

the Gospel ministry, a work toward which he has long been drawn. In addition to his labors as Principal of the school for the past year has been engaged as supply to the La Fayette Church, situated near Chippewa Lake. As a writer, Prof. Dague is rapidly winning a high place among literary men. During his residence at Chillicothe, he wrote for the *Scioto Gazette*, principally, articles on infidelity, that were widely read, and excited much comment. As a lecturer and writer, he is gaining a flattering reputation. He was honored by being appointed one of the members of the Board of Examiners for teachers, of Ross Co., which office he held for three years.

W. N. EYLES, farmer; P. O. Wadsworth; was born Jan. 31, 1838, in Wadsworth Township, in the house in which he now lives, and is a son of William M. and Matilda Newcomb Eyles. The former was a native of Connecticut, who moved to this State at 3 years of age; the latter, of the province of Nova Scotia, whose ancestors were noted for their Christian graces. His grandfather, Hon. William Eyles, settled on the farm now owned by W. N. Eyles, in 1820. The subject of this sketch attended district school in winter, and assisted in the general work on the farm until about 16 years of age, when he attended one year in Wadsworth, and then went to Hiram College four terms, a part of the time under the instruction of Gen. James A. Garfield. After severing his connection with Hiram College, he taught several terms; then read law two years with Aaron Pardee, of Wadsworth; he afterward attended the Law College at Cleveland for one term, and was admitted to the bar in Cleveland in 1860. From there he went to Hillsboro, Ill., where he engaged in practicing law and teaching school for some time, and afterward engaged in farming on account of his father's health; at which business he has remained ever since. He was married Oct. 29, 1869, to Miss C. L. Hard, daughter of Dr. Hanson and Elizabeth (Whitney) Hard; the former born in Middlebury, Summit Co., Ohio, the latter of York State. Their union has been blessed with three children, Frederick William, born Aug. 4, 1870; Caroline M., born Oct. 14, 1872; Harry Hanson, born Dec. 10, 1874, all of whom are living at home. Mr. Eyles and wife are members of the Disciples' Church, and much esteemed by the people of the community in which they live.





SOLOMON EVERHARD, farmer; P. O. Wadsworth; was born June 22, 1825, in a log cabin on the farm on which he now lives; his parents, John and Ann M. (Harter) Everhard, were natives, he of Armstrong Co., Penn., she of Center Co., Penn.; they came to this State in about 1810, the former to Mahoning, and the latter to Stark Co. They were married and came to Wadsworth Township in 1814; John was in the employ of Gen. Wadsworth, after whom this township and village was named, engaged in farming and dairying in Mahoning Co. for some time; afterward purchasing from him the heavily timbered farm upon which he worked, clearing and tilling the soil until his death in 1854, aged 62 years. His wife died on the same old place, in the care of her son Solomon, in 1876, at an advanced age. The subject of this sketch attended school but a short time each year until about 18 years of age, when he attended one term at McGregor's Academy in Wadsworth, then taught school and engaged in farming; he was married in 1852, to Catharine A. Reusimer, daughter of Jacob and Ann M. (Snyder) Reusimer, who were natives of Pennsylvania. There were fifteen children born to them, six of whom died in childhood; those living are Alverna Alvira, who married Andrew Keckler; Frances Irene, married Rudolphus Heller; seven are at home, named respectively, Otto O., Solomon L., Jacob A., Effie A., Laura A., Orpha D. and Nathan N. Mr. Everhard is a prominent man in the township, having filled the office of Justice of the Peace, and Township Trustee for a number of years; he is also a member of the I. O. O. F., having passed the chairs in the subordinate lodge, and is a member of the Encampment; he and family are members of the Lutheran Church.

ALBERT HINSDALE, farmer; P. O. Wadsworth; is a native of Torrington, Litchfield Co., Conn., where he was born on the 18th day of July, 1809. He was the fifth child, and only surviving one, of a family of six children born to Capt. Elisha Hinsdale, who was a son of Jacob and Mary (Brace) Hinsdale, also natives of Connecticut, and Elizabeth Holcomb, his wife. The Captain was in the war of the Revolution three years; was also one of those who, in the most discouraging time of that struggle, wintered at Valley Forge under that great commander La Fayette. He was a member of the Connecticut

Legislature; also manufacturer of the celebrated "Clover Leaf" scythes and axes, in Torrington, Conn. He moved to Ohio in 1816, and settled in 1817, in Norton Township, Summit Co., formerly Medina Co., on the Akron Road, where he set up a blacksmith-shop, which was resorted to for work for miles around, on account of the ingenuity of the proprietor, who was naturally a thorough mechanic. The year of their moving to this State was that memorable cold season, when the spots on the sun were visible with the naked eye; they started in October, well equipped with two ox-teams, but suffered all the inconveniences attending such an extended trip, being nearly eight weeks on the journey, at such an unpropitious time. He was several times elected Justice of the Peace in Norton Township, where he acceptably served for many years as a peacemaker to the people, but was finally called by the great Peacemaker above, his spirit taking its flight June 22, 1827, he being in the 67th year of his age. Albert, the subject of this sketch, was married to Miss Clarinda Eyles; moved to the northern part of Wadsworth Township, in 1835, where he still resides, a respected citizen, with his youngest son and a housekeeper, his wife having died April 28, 1880, aged 65 years. There were five children born unto them, namely: Asenath, born Oct. 2, 1834, died aged 13 years; Burk Aaron, born March 31, 1837; R. O., March 27, 1840; Louisa, April 23, 1844, dying greatly lamented Sept. 8, 1876, aged 32 years. Hers was a beautiful life in every respect, it being devoted to thought and the careful preparation of her mind as a teacher, and for the upbuilding and elevation of humanity. Those coming in contact with her, seemed to catch the inspiration which characterized her, and rise up to nobler and purer purposes in life. Wilbert B., the youngest and only one living a single life, was born May 23, 1850; he graduated at Hiram College. Rev. Burk A., the oldest of the family living, was educated at the institution now known as Hiram College, and received the degree of A. M., in 1871, from Bethany College, West Virginia, and from Williams College, Massachusetts. He entered the ministry of the Christian Church (called also Disciples'), in 1861; was Pastor in Solon, Ohio, and Cleveland, until 1868; also assistant editor of the *Christian Standard* from 1866-69;



Professor of History and English Literature in Hiram College, in 1869-70, and became President of this College in 1870, performing the duties of Professor of Philosophy, History and Biblical Literature, where he continues to the present time. He is also assistant editor of the *Christian Quarterly*, Cincinnati. Mr. Hinsdale is the author also, of the "Genuineness and Authenticity of the Gospel," published in 1873; also, "The Evolution of the Theological and Doctrinal Systems of the Ancient Church," and he has contributed much to periodical literature, also an essay on common school education, published by order of the Northeastern Ohio Teachers' Association. R. O. Hinsdale is a prominent farmer and fine-stock dealer in Wadsworth. The mother of the subject of this sketch died at his home Aug. 27, 1846, at the advanced age of 77 years. His youngest brother, George, a single man, also died at his home in March 1842, aged 25 years; was a carpenter and joiner by trade, who, when stricken down by the disease which took his life, had the contract for building the Congregational and Disciples' Churches; was a good mechanic, a young man of promise, loved and respected by all; his was the first funeral held in the Disciples' Church. The wife of Mr. Hinsdale was born on the present site of Akron when a wilderness. The family of this old gentleman are all people greatly respected.

P. C. HARD, lawyer, Wadsworth; was born May 19, 1831, in Wadsworth, and is the son of Cyrus and Lydia (Hart) Hard, who moved to Middlebury, Portage Co., Ohio, in 1816, and, after a residence there of eight years, moved to Wadsworth Township in 1824. The father of our subject established the first carding and cloth-dressing factory in this part of the State, at Middlebury, Summit Co., in 1819, which place became noted for the manufacture of woolen goods, and which is still a manufacturing town in that class of goods. He also started a factory in this county in 1824, where it is carried on at present. The subject of this sketch attended the district school in Wadsworth until about 11 years of age, and then attended the academy until about 17 years of age, when he engaged in the study of law with William Cunningham, Esq., at Canal Fulton. While engaged in the study of law with that gentleman, he also learned telegraphy, which proved to be valuable knowledge to him in after life in a po-

sition which he occupied for several years after his return from the army—that of traveling agent for the A. & G. W. R. R. He graduated from the National Law School at Ballston Spa, N. Y., in August, 1832. He practiced law at Seville with James C. Johnson for some time, then went to Summit Co., Ohio, where he was a member of the bar for about six years at Akron. He then enlisted in the service of his country under the first call; afterward came home, and recruited for and was a member of Co. D, 29th O. V. I., known as Joseph Giddings' Regiment, until March, 1862, when he was discharged on account of disability. In 1871, he resumed the practice of law in Wadsworth, where he now lives. He was married Aug. 19, 1855, to Miss Sarah C. Wittner, daughter of Abraham and Jane J. (Metlin) Wittner, who were natives of Pennsylvania—the former of Lancaster and the latter of Newcastle—who came to this State, and are still living in Summit Co., Ohio, Mrs. Hard being the only child. Their union has been blessed with three children—Lydia Jane, Charles W. (who died in infancy) and Metlin W. Lydia was married to William Fedder, of Pittsburgh, Penn., who is interested in the steel works at that place. Mr. Hard is a member of the Republican Central Committee, and has taken a prominent part in the affairs of the community in which he lives, and in campaigning for Republicanism. He is also the inventor of the Imperial Spiral Spring Bed-bottom, which has been manufactured and sold extensively throughout the States.

WILLIAM KOPLIN (deceased) was born March 25, 1829, in the State of Pennsylvania. He was a son of William and Mary (Simpson) Koplin, who were natives of Pennsylvania, and of English-Irish descent. His parents moved to Wayne Co., Ohio, about the year 1831, where they lived for about eighteen years, and then moved to Rock Co., Wis., where they resided for about ten years, when they again took up their residence in Wayne Co., Ohio, where they lived out the remainder of their days. William received a moderate education, and assisted his father in the blacksmith-shop, where he learned the trade, afterward working at it several years in connection with farming, until within a few years of his death, when he engaged in the livery business. For two years prior to his death, which occurred Jan. 29, 1880, of that dread disease, consumption, he





was unable to perform any labor at all. He was married, March 5, 1854, to Mary Long, daughter of John R. and Elizabeth (Rasor) Long, of German descent. By this union, there were six children, three of whom are living—Ella Letitia (born March 4, 1857), Reuben A. (Dec. 28, 1862) and Clara Belle, Sept. 28, 1865; all are living at home and assisting their widowed mother, who is proprietress of the Koplin House, situated on Broad street, Wadsworth, Ohio, which hotel she has managed for the past two years for the purpose of providing for her family. A distressing accident occurred to them about four years ago, which caused the death of one of their sons, a bright boy, who was much esteemed and loved by all who knew him. He was riding with his father, who was driving a team of young horses, which became frightened, throwing him out over the dash-board, entangling him in the wagon and dragging him over the rough roads until life was extinct. Mrs. Koplin and family are members of the Congregational Church of this village.

C. N. LYMAN, physician, Wadsworth; was born May 14, 1819, in Wadsworth Township, Medina Co., Ohio, and is a son of George and Ophelia (Cook) Lyman. George moved to this county in 1816, his family following him from Torrington Township, Litchfield Co., Conn. They engaged in farming on the Connecticut Western Reserve, suffering all the inconveniences characteristic of a very early pioneer life in a wild, wooded country. The Doctor attended the common district school, as held in the township, and assisted his father, until about seventeen years of age. His parents being New England people, they were concerned about the education of their children, and gave them all the advantages that a new country could afford. After his 17th year, he assisted his father in the manufacture of fanning-mills, until about 19 years of age, when he entered the office of Elijah Kendrick, M. D., of Wadsworth, with whom he studied for two years, when he was deprived of the instructions of his old preceptor, on account of his having received the appointment of Superintendent of the Insane Asylum at Columbus, Ohio. He then pursued his studies with Dr. G. K. Pardee, of Wadsworth, with whom he entered into partnership, after attending lectures at Lexington, Ky., and graduating March 1, 1843. After the

death of Dr. Pardee, he attended to their extensive practice himself. He is a member of the National Medical Association, the Northwestern Medical Association, of which he was President one term, and of the State Medical Association. He was married, March 3, 1844, to Miss C. E. Beach, daughter of Luman and Lydia (Wright) Beach. By this union, there has been no issue. The father of Dr. Lyman is still living, in his 91st year, and they both advocate the principles of true Republicanism.

JUDGE JOHN LUGENBEEL, deceased; was born Dec. 26, 1792, in Frederick Co., Md., the son of John and Sarah (Worman) Lugenbeel, who were also natives of Frederick Co., Md. He received a meager district-school education, which, with a great amount of natural ability, enabled him to reach the goal of success in his long and checkered life. He first engaged in farming. Was elected Judge of the Court in Frederick City, Md., and also engaged in mercantile pursuits for several years, when he moved, with his family, to Delaware Co., Ohio, about 47 years ago, and engaged in farming there for about fifteen years. He was elected Judge of the Probate Court there one year after his settlement in this county, which office he filled for seven years. He afterward sold the farm and moved to the city of Delaware, where he lived a retired life for a few years, and then moved to Cleveland, Ohio, where he resided in retirement four years, at the end of which he went to Akron, Ohio, where he was not permitted to live the retired life which he desired, but was elected to different offices of responsibility, which he filled creditably for a number of years, when he again withdrew from active life, and moved to Wadsworth, thence to Western Star, where his wife is now living, at the advanced age of 84 years, a bright and interesting old lady, he having died Dec. 26, 1874, on his 80th birthday. He was married May 12, 1814, to Pamela Poole, who was born Sept. 27, 1796, and is the daughter of Brice and Achsah (James) Poole. By her he had five children—Ephraim, Henry, Pinkney, Susan C., De Witt C. and Lucretia, three of whom are living—Col. Pinkney, a graduate of West Point, who is now located at New York Harbor; De Witt C., a school-teacher in Delaware Co., Ohio, and Lucretia, now Mrs. Burnham, a widow living at Burlington, Iowa.



Mrs. Lugenbeel is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

E. G. LOOMIS, Wadsworth. The subject of this brief notice is the proprietor and Superintendent of the Silver Creek Coal Mines, and is also Secretary of the C. & T. V. R. R. He is engaged quite extensively in farming, and is the lessee of extensive coal fields in various parts of this and adjoining counties, which are not, as yet, in operation.

GEORGE W. LEONARD, farmer; P. O. Western Star; was born in Cuyahoga Co. June 1, 1857; is a son of Roland and Malinda (Norman) Leonard, the former a native of Stark Co., and the latter of Coshocton Co. His grandfather, James F. Leonard, came to Stark Co. in about 1805, as a land-jobber and surveyor; his great-grandfather on his father's side of the house came from County Fermanagh, Ireland, early in 1700, and settled in York State. The subject of this sketch attended the Cleveland Public Schools until his graduation at about 19 years of age, when he attended Mt. Union College one year, his vacations being spent in assisting his father in the dry goods business in the city of Cleveland. He afterward engaged in the grocery and meat business, shipping stock two years, with his brother-in-law. His father having retired from business in Cleveland, is now farming near Kent, Portage Co., Ohio. George was married, Dec. 20, 1877, to Melissa Young, who was born in Stark Co., Ohio, Oct. 14, 1858, and is a daughter of Cyrus and Margaret (Shaffer) Young, who were also natives of Stark Co., Ohio, by whom he has one child—Florence M.—born March 27, 1879. Mr. Leonard is engaged quite extensively in the stock business, and is also carrying on a large farm. He is of Irish-French descent, a Republican in his political belief, and a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

FRANK MILLS, farmer; P. O. Wadsworth; was born May 14, 1836, in a house built by his grandfather, on the farm which he settled in 1818, and in which Frank now lives with his family and aged mother, his father having died about two years ago. Frank is a son of Philo P. and Amoret (Bates) Mills, after whose father the village of Bates' Corners is called, the former born in Norfolk, Conn., July 8, 1805, and the latter in Hartland, Conn., in 1808. Their parents were among the earliest settlers in this county. Frank received a district-

school education, and attended a graded school at Western Star a few terms, till about 20 years of age, when he engaged in farming with his father, having, before that time, rendered him considerable service while out of school, and, being the only child, his sister having died at 15 years of age, the care and management of the farm would devolve upon him. He was married, Feb. 16, 1858, to Julia A. Grotz, born Jan 1, 1840, and daughter of Abraham and Caroline (Hayes) Grotz, of Copley, Summit Co., Ohio; by this union, there are four children—Fred P., born Dec. 28, 1859; Edgar, born Dec. 16, 1860, and died Feb. 27, 1861; Mattie, born Oct. 14, 1862; Harry, born March 20, 1866; all those living are at home. Mr. Mills was elected for a term of three years to the office of Commissioner of the county about two years ago, which office he has acceptably filled, as well as that of Township Trustee for several years, and is also Treasurer of the Village School Board, of which he has been a member for the last nine years. Mr. Mills is a strong Republican in his political views. He is an extensive stock dealer and shipper, in which occupation his time is diligently employed, in connection with the duties of his office. He is a prominent and enterprising business man, respected and esteemed by all who know him.

ELI OVERHOLT, Postmaster, Wadsworth; was born Jan 23, 1842, and is a son of Martin L. and Elizabeth (Tinsman) Overholt, both natives of Pennsylvania, but moving to this county at an early date—forty-eight years ago—and bought a tract of land of about 240 acres, in the southwest part of the township, where the subject of this sketch was born, received his education and lived until his enlistment in Co. H, 29th O. V. I., Oct. 28, 1861, serving two years and over, being discharged Dec. 3, 1863, on account of a severe wound in the leg, received in the battle of Chancellorsville, Va.; he was also at the battles of Winchester and Port Republic, Va., being taken prisoner at the latter place on the 9th day of June, 1862, and sent to Belle Isle; was released on parole and then exchanged after two months' confinement, and returned to his regiment, under Gen. Shields as division commander. He was married, Oct. 6, 1869, to Anna Baughman, of Wadsworth, daughter of David and Amelia (Deshler) Baughman, who were among the early settlers of the county; their union





was blessed with two children—Olive Bell and Albert—the former born Aug. 9, 1870, the latter Sept. 6, 1872. Mrs. Overholt died Nov. 23, 1877, after a brief illness of two weeks, leaving two small children and a loving husband to mourn her loss. Mr. Overholt was appointed to the office of Postmaster of Wadsworth, Oct. 1, 1871, which place he has filled creditably to himself and acceptably to the community. He is a staunch Republican, a member of the Congregational Church, a consistent Christian and a good citizen. His mother is living in his family, the father having died when he was quite small.

HON. AARON PARDEE, lawyer, Wadsworth; was born Oct. 8, 1808, in Skaneateles, which was then Marcellus, in Onondaga Co., N. Y. He is a son of Ebenezer and Anna (Minor) Pardee, natives of Norfolk, Conn., the latter a daughter of Dr. Minor, of that place. There were ten sons and two daughters in the family, of whom Aaron was the youngest son; his father died in December, 1812, leaving the mother with a large family in her care, the oldest 22 years, the youngest 2 years of age. Aaron attended district school in his native county until past 15 years of age, when he moved to this township with his mother and the family in wagons, one of which he drove. After coming to this county, he attended school one winter and taught two winters. He was married on his birthday in 1827, at 19 years of age to Eveline B. Eyles, daughter of Hon. William Eyles, who was prominent in the early legislation of the State, and Polly Derthick, his wife, who were natives of Litchfield Co., Conn. By this union, there were nine children—William, Henry, Charles, Don A., George, Evelyn S., Almira, Fanny and Elle. Six are now living, four sons and two daughters. Don A. was a Major, and afterward promoted to Lieutenant Colonel, under Gen. James A. Garfield. He has also held the office of District Judge in New Orleans, where he located after the war. George K. was a Captain in the same regiment, under Gen. Garfield, and is now an Attorney-at law in Akron, Ohio. Aaron Pardee began the study of law in 1833, in connection with farm labor, and was admitted to the bar in 1837, after which time he practiced law in Wadsworth, where he has been ever since. He was elected in the State Senate in 1850, was re-elected under the new constitution and served

until the expiration of his term. Under Abraham Lincoln's administration, he was appointed Assessor of Internal Revenue, at the adoption of that law, serving in that capacity until 1866. He was the first Mayor of Wadsworth, and has filled other responsible offices in the village and township. He is an old citizen, and is respected and esteemed by the community in which he lives.

JUDGE ALLEN PARDEE, retired; P. O. Wadsworth; was born Feb. 7, 1790, in Norfolk Township, Litchfield Co., Conn., and is a son of Ebenezer and Annie (Minor) Pardee, who moved to Onondaga Co., N. Y., where the father died. Allen came to this State in July, 1818, to Wadsworth Township, where he has lived ever since. He worked in the capacity of farmer until about 1835, when he engaged in buying and selling stock, he and a younger brother, using the name of another brother in York State to strengthen the firm, engaged in mercantile pursuits, in which they were very successful. They afterward built a large flouring mill, and made flour for the New York market, filling a contract of 600 barrels of superfine flour, for which they received the sum of \$6.50 per barrel, to be supplied in the month of June of that year. Another quite remarkable incident in the Judge's life, was that he, with his own hands, unheaded, packed and re-headed 600 barrels of pork in one season, which he sold at a good price. They also built several of the first buildings in the village, besides improving the country and building and manipulating mills. The Judge's education was very limited, having attended school but a few days after 8 years of age; he acquired, however, by his own energy and remarkable ability, a good education. He served two terms on the bench (fourteen years) under the old constitution, and has been prominently identified with the early affairs of the county, and is probably better known in all parts of the county than any other man who ever lived in it. He was married in December, 1812, to Phæbe Foster, daughter of Thomas and Mary (Gage) Foster, who resided in Onondaga Co., N. Y. By this union, there were the following children—William N., Eugene, Lauratte, Ann S., Norman C. and Editha, all of whom are living, except one who died in infancy. His wife died in 1842, and he was remarried to Louisa Bates (Wilcox) in 1844, by whom he had no





children. She had two children by her former husband, who were well provided for by their stepfather, whom they loved. Their mother died in 1875. The Judge's children have all married; his daughter, Ann S., who is a widow, is living at home with her father, in his old age. They are all respected and admired by the citizens of the community in which they live.

**HORACE GREELEY SHEETS**, farmer; P. O. Wadsworth: Among the enterprising young men of Medina Co., a sketch of whose lives shall help to embellish the pages of this volume, is the subject of this sketch. No one is more widely known, none more deserving, and none more prominent in the respect, confidence and affections of the people than he. He was born Jan. 30, 1851, in Chippewa Township, in the northern part of Wayne Co., where his parents, John F. and Catharine (Schrautz) Sheets, now live, respected farmers. They came to this State from Pennsylvania; he, when 18 years of age, and was born Jan. 24, 1821; she in 1835, and was born March 27, 1827; they were married in 1845, in Stark Co., where they both settled when first coming into the State, and moved to the place which they now occupy. His father learned the cabinet-maker's trade while yet in Pennsylvania, at which he was employed for some time, finally devoting his life to agriculture. His earliest ancestors were natives of Switzerland, emigrating to this country at an early day. Mr. Sheets passed the first twenty-two years of his early life on his father's farm, and was married on his twenty-second birthday to Rebecca Hildebrand, daughter of Manasseh and Rebecca (Hoover) Hildebrand, natives of York Co., Penn.; her father died in 1854; her mother afterward married a Mr. Rohrer and came to Milton Township, Wayne Co. Mr. Sheets' marriage has been blessed with two children—John Franklin, born Dec. 30, 1875, and Clara Maud, born May 3, 1879. Mr. Sheets was educated in the district schools of his native place, with the additional advantage of two terms at the Doylestown Academy and two terms at the Smithville High School, afterward teaching for a short time. During his school days, he was looked upon as a thorough student and an acknowledged leader, which, in after life, is being more thoroughly developed. He was elected Real Estate Appraiser of his township in the

fall of 1879, the people thus showing their appreciation of his good judgment. He moved to Wadsworth Township, this county, in March, 1873.

**WILLIAM STEVENS**, hotel-keeper, Western Star; was born Dec. 15, 1824, of English origin, in Middlefield, Conn. His parents, Ruben and Rebecca (Ives) Stevens, moved to Western Star in 1838, where they lived until their death. The father was a carpenter and joiner by trade, and a man noted in his occupation. William, the subject of this brief sketch, in his early life received a common-school education, and assisted his father, who afterward became a farmer. For two years after arriving at the age of 18, he assisted his brother in the mercantile business. At 21 years of age, he was united in marriage to Mary McDermott, daughter of Thomas McDermott, a Presbyterian minister and farmer at Doylestown, Wayne Co. By her he had one child, Francis U., who died in infancy. In 1853, he and his brother Henry started for California with a drove of cattle, arriving in the fall, after three months' traveling. Disposing of their stock, they engaged in the mercantile business, and meeting with considerable success in their enterprise. They then purchased a farm, and engaged in the stock business on the Sacramento River, where they remained for five years; then sold their property, and went to Virginia City, where he engaged in hauling goods to Austin to sell to the trading posts there. One year later, he returned to California, where he again engaged in the stock business for a time; then engaged in the mercantile business until his return to Western Star in 1857. His brother returned about four years earlier on the ill-fated Golden Gate; was saved, being more fortunate than some of his companions. However, he lost several thousand dollars of partnership money. After his return home, he was re-married to Julia McDermott, a sister of his first wife, by whom he had two children—Willie C. and Malcolm Chisholm.

**JOSEPH TYLER**, farmer; P. O. Wadsworth. This gentleman was born in Copley Township, Summit Co., Ohio, Aug. 14, 1822. His parents, Benjamin and Olive (Brown) Tyler, were natives—he of Uxbridge, Mass., she of Bennington, Vt. They were among the first settlers of Norton Township, formerly Medina Co., now Summit, settling in that vicinity in 1816, and uniting in marriage June 8, 1820,



their union being blessed with six children, namely, Benjamin, Jr., Joseph (the subject of this sketch), Solomon, Mary, Rosanna and Abraham—three of whom are living, Joseph being the oldest. He takes great pride in the preservation of the history of the family, his record extending through seven generations, and dating back to the birth of his great-great-grandfather, Job Tyler, born in the North of England, but of Scotch descent, in 1620, emigrating to this country when a very young man. He died in 1700, being the father of five children, his son John, born in 1653, standing at the head of the second generation, dying in 1742, leaving seven children, his son Joseph, born in 1701, heading the third generation; he died in 1779, leaving ten children, one of whom was Solomon, born in 1757, head of the fourth generation; he died, having twelve children, one, Benjamin, of the fifth generation, born in 1796, and father of the subject of this sketch; died in 1875. Joseph received but a meager education, attending district school but a short time each year, until about 19 years of age, the remainder of his early life being spent in assisting on the farm. The following five years were spent in different occupations, in which he was quite successful; also, in later life, his career has been one of signal success, the elements of which are found in an excellent judgment, a remarkable business tact, an indomitable energy and perseverance, a strict integrity in dealing, and a power, which few men possess, of commanding the respect and confidence of the people. He was married, Dec. 22, 1846, to Eliza Ann Williams, a native of Stark Co., and daughter of John and Hannah (Albright) Williams, by whom he has three children—Augusta T., born Oct. 16, 1847; Rush S., Oct. 15, 1851, married to Laura S. Stanard, by whom he has one child, Winifred Pearl, born June 21, 1876; he is engaged in farming in Wadsworth Township; and Jessie R., born Sept. 17, 1856, now Mrs. J. W. Culbertson, living in Lorain, Ohio; her husband is engaged on the railroad; they have one child, Guy W., born Sept. 26, 1878. Mr. Tyler is a prominent man in his township, having held the offices of Justice of the Peace and Township Trustee for a number of years, acceptably filling both, being a staunch old Republican in politics, and has been a member of the I. O. O. F. for about thirty years. During the late rebellion, he en-

listed in the naval service, but, after the lapse of three weeks as a sailor, was discharged, and appointed Paymaster Steward, with headquarters at Cairo, on the Clara Dolson receiving ship. After the surrender of Vicksburg, he resigned his position and returned home.

SOLOMON TYLER, deceased, who was born July 18, 1803, in the State of Massachusetts, came to Summit Co. in the year 1825, on foot. After prospecting a short time among the forest hills, he returned to his native State, making the journey the second time on foot. Four years later, having been married in the meantime, he returned, and began clearing up the home selected by him on his first trip to this part of the State, which has since been made beautiful and fruitful by himself and his companions in pioneer life, who have long since gone to a more beautiful home than the pioneers of this State enjoyed. His wife was Lucretia Cook, by whom he had five children, two of whom were scalded to death in infancy; Cynthia (by whom this sketch was given) and Lemuel, living in Jasper Co., Ind., and Malcolm, living near Wadsworth; Cynthia was married to a farmer, H. F. Hodges, May 28, 1853, at 22 years of age, by whom she had three sons—Tyler, born June 16, 1856; H. F., Jr., Sept. 29, 1858; Cyrus J., May 8, 1860, died in infancy; H. F., Jr., engaged in farming in Iowa, Tyler farming near Western Star. The Tyler family were quite noted in their native State, his only brother being a Representative to the State Legislature, and prominently identified with the interests of his native State. Mr. Tyler and family were members of the Disciples' Church. The 18th day of December, 1878, the life of this prominent Christian man came to a close, leaving a large circle of friends to mourn the loss of one who was greatly esteemed and respected by them.

EPHRAIM WRIGHT, farmer and fine-stock raiser; P. O. Wadsworth. This gentleman, born in Northampton Co., Penn., is a descendant of Jacob and Elizabeth (Schall) Wright, who were natives also, of Northampton Co., Penn., but came to this county in 1842, settling on the place on which the son now lives, and where they died, the mother Feb. 26, 1877, at 72 years of age, and the father following her to that "beautiful shore" eleven months after, where





"The winds breathe low, the yellow leaf  
 Scarce whispers from the tree;  
 So gently flows the parting breath  
 When good men cease to be."

He did his part as a faithful friend, as a good citizen, and as an earnest Christian. The subject of this narrative received only a meager education in the schools, but, by his own ability, perseverance and industry, he has acquired a store of knowledge. When quite a young man, he learned the carpenter and joiner's trade, which he followed for about seven years. On Sept. 10, 1846, he was united in marriage to Catharine Widman, daughter of Jacob and Annie (Geisinger) Widman, who resided in Guilford Township at the time of her birth, emigrating, in 1822, to that place from Canada, the native place of her mother, the father being a native of Pennsylvania, but served in the British army, receiving a deed from the queen for 106 acres of land near Toronto, which the family knew nothing of until after his death, when it was litigated, the right of title being contested by parties who had held possession for many years; it was, however, decided in favor of the holder of the grant from the Queen. Mr. and Mrs. Wright have been blessed with eleven children, four having died in childhood; seven are living—William H., born Nov. 9, 1850, married Christa Eichelberger March 4, 1870; Edgar J., born Nov. 9, 1854, married Clara C. Lahr June 16, 1878; Elmer Francis, born March 9, 1857, married to Ada Bechtel July, 1880; Ida Ellen, born April 25, 1861, married to William H. Dolmer Nov. 29, 1877; Oliver Otis, born Feb. 26, 1864; Dora May, May 1, 1867; Charles Watson, June 8, 1872. Mr. Wright is a great temperance worker, and was the first man in his township to refuse to give the whisky bottle to men in the harvest-field and at loggings, etc.; he was remonstrated with by his neighbors, and even his own father, but he was firm in the belief that it was an evil and useless practice, and was determined to abandon it, notwithstanding the declarations of the men that they would not work for him; nevertheless, his

plan worked well, and soon his neighbors followed him. Mr. Wright has been engaged in raising fine Spanish merino sheep and Durham cattle for several years, and has done more to improve the stock in Wadsworth than any other resident in the township. He has filled several township positions, at the solicitation of his many friends, with credit and satisfaction. He is, also, with his family, connected with the U. B. Church, and has been for over twenty years.

PETER YODER, farmer; P. O. Wadsworth; was born Jan. 7, 1808, in Lehigh Co., Penn., and is a son of John and Susannah (Moyer) Yoder, who were, also, natives of Lehigh Co., and of German parentage. Mr. Yoder received a very meager education, attending school but a few weeks in each year, being employed the remainder of the time in assisting his father on the farm, until about 16 years of age, after which he engaged in farming for his father until about 22 years of age, when he engaged work with a man at \$7 per month. Some time afterward he built a saw-mill, which he run for about fifteen years, when he again became a tiller of the soil, in which occupation he has been steadily employed ever since. Mr. Yoder moved to this State about twenty-six years ago, settling where he now lives. He was married in December, 1836, to Susannah Bechtel, daughter of John and Elizabeth (Bechtel) Bechtel, who were natives of Berks Co., Penn., by whom he had eleven children—Lovina, born Jan. 12, 1838; John B., July 28, 1839; Henry, Dec. 1, 1840; Elizabeth, Sept. 1, 1842; Susannah, May 15, 1844; Catharine, June 1, 1846; Peter, Dec. 3, 1848; Franklin, March 11, 1851; William Harrison, July 24, 1853; David, May 17, 1856; Edwin, Oct. 4, 1859; all of whom are living, the two youngest at home. All the rest are married, and living in Wadsworth Township, except two, who are living just over the line in Summit Co. Mr. Yoder and his wife are members of the Mennonite Church of this place.



## GUILFORD TOWNSHIP.

**JOSEPH L. BECK**, farmer and stock-raiser; P. O. River Styx, was born in Northampton Co., Penn., Feb. 10, 1818. His father, Ludwig Beck, was a native of that county, being a son of *Jacob Beck*, who came there from Germany when in his youth. The country was then under English dominion, and the family were often compelled to flee from their homes when the country was harassed by the Indians. Ludwig secured his father's farm, and, being an energetic man, possessed at his death a fine property. His companion through life was a native of Bucks Co., Penn., her maiden name being Elizabeth Smith. He died July 22, 1841; and his wife May 18, 1876. At the death of his father, Joseph commenced doing for himself, and afterward he and his brother secured the old homestead. He afterward sold his interest to his brother, and, coming to Medina Co., Ohio, in the summer of 1850, bought the farm on which he now lives. The following April, he moved here, and has since been one of the leading farmers of the county, having done more, perhaps, than any other person for the improvement of stock in Medina Co. He brought the first Cotswold sheep here in the spring of 1853, and is one of the leading breeders in other kinds of stock, such as horses, cattle and hogs. That he is one of the honorable and conscientious breeders, is known to all, the herd books of Ohio bearing us out in the testimony. He is a stockholder in the Medina County Agricultural Society, and one of the leading fair men of Northern Ohio. He was married, in October, 1841, to Eliza Long. She died Dec. 24, 1874, leaving seven children—Sarah, Catharine Jane, Maria, Mary, Jacob, Josephine and George. Jan. 10, 1878, he was united to Sarah Berry, of Northampton Co., Penn., where she was born Oct. 30, 1836. The family are all members of the Lutheran Church, in which he has been Elder for the last fifteen years. He is a Republican.

**ROBERT BELL**, farmer; P. O. Seville. Among the early pioneers of Medina Co. who had to forego the luxuries, and, in many instances, the necessities of life in order to secure

homes for their families, we take pleasure in mentioning the Bell family, who were among the first settlers of Guilford Township. The first of whom we have any record is William H. Bell, who was born in Vermont, and from there accompanied the family Cortland Co., N. Y., where he was married to Miss Harriet Owen, who was born in Massachusetts, leaving there a few years previous to her marriage. In the year 1819, they came to Medina Co., and, being among the first adventurers, had to endure many hardships before their farm became sufficiently productive to render their situation one to be envied. Mr. Bell died in July, 1829, leaving a family of five children, four of whom grew to maturity and are now living. Mrs. Bell was again married, to John Bell, a brother to her first husband, and, in 1844, removed to Wisconsin, where she passed the rest of her life. Robert, one of the sons, was born Sept. 28, 1827, and followed the family fortunes until of age, when he returned to his native county of Medina, and has since been one of the respected citizens. During the winter of 1850-51, he clerked in a store in Medina, and, then coming to Seville, followed the same vocation until 1863, when he went to farming, and is one of the successful tillers of the soil. He was married, April 17, 1854, to Margaret, daughter of Isaac and Mary L. (Russell) Gray. She was born March 20, 1828, in Salem, Washington Co., N. Y., and came to this county in the year 1831. Their union has proved a happy and prosperous one, and has been crowned with two children—Elbert J. and Helen M. Death, the common enemy of all, has visited the family and robbed it of one of its brightest ornaments, the daughter being taken from them Aug. 21, 1879, when in her 19th year. The son is associated with his father in the management of the homestead, and already possesses a farm of his own. Mr. Bell cast his first ballot for John P. Hale, and is a strong adherent of the Republican party.

**PLATT E. BEACH**, physician and surgeon, Seville; is the eldest son of Dr. A. P. Beach, and was born Sept. 13, 1855, in Wayne Co.,





Ohio. He received a good common-school education, and, when only 15 years old, commenced clerking in a store. He followed this business for three years, when he resolved to adopt the medical profession, and entered the office of his father. Here he was a careful student, and, less than two years later, he entered the medical institute at Pittsburgh, Penn., where he remained about one and one-half years, and then attended the University of Michigan nearly the same length of time. Wishing to complete the course at an Eastern institution, he entered the Long Island College and Hospital, from which he matriculated June 21, 1877. Contrary to the general rule, he located in his native village, and soon established a lucrative practice, which he yet retains. He was married, April 18, 1878, Miss Sue Loveless becoming his wife. Their union, although a happy and interesting one, was of brief duration, her death occurring April 2, 1879. She was born in London, Ontario, Province of Canada, on the same day as her husband, Sept. 13, 1855. Dr. Beach is a consistent member of the Presbyterian Church. He is a Republican.

J. C. BOISE, druggist, Seville; was born Oct. 23, 1843, in Milton Township, Wayne Co., Ohio. His father, William P. Boise, was born in the Empire State, and, when 12 years old, with his father's family, came west to Huron Co., Ohio, being among the early settlers of that county, where they remained for several years, when they came to Medina Co., and, after a few years' residence, the father returned, and passed the rest of his life in Huron Co. William P. was married at Seville to Lydia Savercool, who came here from New York State when 10 years old. With the exception of two years, he lived in Wayne County shortly after his marriage. Mr. Boise lived in this county until recent years, when he moved to Lorain Co., where he now lives. The subject of this sketch was one of the patriotic young heroes who hastened to the defense of his country in her hours of peril. He was only 17 years old when he enlisted in Co. B, 42d O. V. I., under Col. (afterward General) Garfield. After serving two years, his health became so much impaired that he was discharged and sent home, and, although he receives a pecuniary recompense, it is only a slight compensation for his great loss. He was engaged in the manufacture

of carriages, buggies, etc., at Spencer Center, a short time, but relinquished that for his present business, keeping one of the finest lines of drugs to be found in Medina Co. He was married, Aug. 12, 1865, to Lorinda, daughter of Philip and Elizabeth (Lance) Wideman. She was born in Medina Co., Chatham Township, March 13, 1847, and has crowned their union with one child—Lura, born Dec. 26, 1867. Mr. Boise is a successful business man, and in politics is found in the Republican ranks.

WILLIAM BIGHAM, physician and surgeon, Seville; was born in Holmes Co., Ohio, Sept. 11, 1834. A family of this name emigrated to Wayne Co., Ohio, as early as 1812, James Bigham being the head of the family. He bought a farm near where Wooster now stands, but which then contained only a solitary cabin, and commenced the battle of making a home in the dense forest. The following year, they became alarmed at the reported ravages of the Indians, and, burying their cooking utensils, returned to their native county in the Keystone State, where they passed one year, and then again ventured to return to their pioneer home in the wilds of Ohio. They lived here the remainder of their lives, and passed away peacefully many years ago. Ebenezer, one of their sons, was about 10 years old when they came here, and his early life did not differ materially from that of other pioneer children, and, after arriving at manhood, returned to Westmoreland Co., Penn., and married Mary Cunningham. They lived in Wayne Co. one year, and then removed to Holmes Co., where they passed the rest of their days developing a fine property and creating a truly interesting home. She died in 1858, and was followed by her husband in 1876. The subject of this sketch received a good common-school education, which was supplemented by a business course, and in 1855 he went to Cumberland, Va., where he was book-keeper for Cyrus Prentiss, a dealer in fire-proof brick in the New Orleans market. In the political campaign of 1856, he was one of the twenty Free-Soil citizens that resided in that county, and these were all men of Northern birth or else Northern education. This handful of patriotic souls raised the first pole ever dedicated to their cause in Virginia soil—a monument to their fearlessness and heroism. He commenced the study of medicine in 1858, and during the winter of 1861-62 attended the





University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. In April, 1862, he located at Seville, where he has since practiced, except during the time he was in the army. He was Captain of the 166th O. N. G., Co. F, and located at Fort Richardson. He secured the right of way for the C. T. V. & W. R. R. through this section of country, and was instrumental in securing the necessary local support. He was surgeon of the road from 1872 to 1875, and was elected Mayor of Seville in 1862, and again in 1864 and 1878. His marriage was celebrated May 27, 1856, Amanda L., daughter of Solomon and Martha (Davis) Geller becoming his wife. She was a resident of Mt. Gilead, Ohio. They have one child—Mattie M., born Aug. 7, 1857. He is a Republican.

VAN BELL, hardware, Seville; was born in Guilford Township, Medina Co., Ohio, Feb. 3, 1835. His father, Nathaniel Bell, came here from New York State at a very early day, perhaps in 1819, being a single man at the time. He was prominently identified with the growing interests and improvements of the county during the pioneer times, and was married to a lady reared under like circumstances as himself, coming to the county during her early life, and also schooled to adversity. Her name was Sarah L. Cook, and, in 1837, they gathered together their worldly effects and moved to Wisconsin, where they passed the rest of their lives, she dying in 1849 and he in 1868. When 15 years old, Van returned to this county from Wisconsin and attended school for three years, and then, after living at home one year longer, came here and learned the carpenter's trade. He remained three years, and the same length of time he passed successively in Wisconsin and Illinois. The golden land of California next attracted his attention, the journey being made by the overland route. There he worked at the trade of millwright for three years, and, having been successful, he resolved to again visit Ohio. He came to Seville, and, after five years' experience in the furniture business, he engaged in the hardware trade, which has proved successful. He was married, in February, 1857, to Emeline Caughey, at Seville. She died in May, 1871, having borne three children—Wallace (who died when young), Mary and Maggie. In 1876, he was united to Nellie Harper, a native of this county. Mr. Bell was a Democrat in early life, and cast his first

Presidential ballot for Stephen A. Douglas. He is now a Republican.

LEVI J. CONKEY, farmer; P. O. Seville. Among the early settlers of Medina Co. that located in what is termed Guilford Township, we take pleasure in mentioning the Conkey family, who first came here in 1828. Ezekiel Conkey, Sr., with his family, were residents of Hampshire Co., Mass., and, wishing to better his circumstances in life, lived a short time successively in the States of Vermont and New York. He finally removed to Ohio in the year 1818, and located in Jefferson Co., where he lived ten years before he came to the county of Medina, and even then lived here only a short time, during which they erected a cabin and started a home in the forest. Returning to Jefferson Co., they remained there until 1833, when they once more removed to this county, where they ever after lived. Ezekiel Conkey, Jr., who was born about the year 1796, followed the fortunes of the family and bought the farm in Medina Co., which he himself developed, there being 250 acres at first, a part of which he sold. Oct. 25, 1841, he was married to Elizabeth Haughey. She was born in Allen Creek Township, Jefferson Co., Ohio, March 9, 1819, her father being a native of New Jersey, and her mother of Erie Co., Penn. In 1837, they removed from Jefferson to Wayne Co., Ohio, where he entered a tract of land, on which he lived until 1864, when he removed to Indiana, where he died. After his marriage, Mr. Conkey settled on the farm he had secured, where himself and wife struggled bravely and successfully with the world, and were bountifully rewarded for their labors. He died Nov. 8, 1868, having devoted the greater part of his life toward the improvement of Medina Co. Their union gave four children—Robert F. (born Aug. 19, 1845), Hannah M. (born July 9, 1847), Levi J. (born March 12, 1849) and Caroline L. (born March 18, 1851). The oldest son is married and lives in Williams Co., Ohio. The daughters died young, and the youngest son still lives under the parental roof. Both mother and son are consistent members of the United Brethren Church, and have recently erected a tasty and attractive residence in the northern part of Wayne Co., to which they removed in the spring of 1889. They still retain the old homestead, and thus the county of Medina contains many associations dear to them.



MARY E. COOK, Seville; was born July 30, 1840, in Medina Co., Ohio. Her father, Charles C. Mead, was born and reared in Cayuga Co., N. Y., and learned the trade of tanner and currier in the city of Auburn. He was married to a lady by the name of Nancy Lyon, who was born at Saratoga, N. Y., and went to Cayuga Co. when 10 years old; she was a daughter of David and Nancy (Cotter) Lyon, both of whom were natives of Westchester Co., N. Y. Her father served in the Revolutionary war, and at one time both he and his father were captured, but managed to escape shortly afterward. In the spring of 1829, Mr. Mead moved to what is now known as Medina Co., Ohio, and built a tannery, which he conducted as long as his health would permit. He then became a farmer, cleared a farm from the dense forest, and followed agricultural pursuits until November, 1857, when he moved to the town of Seville, where he ever after lived, following the trade of painter. He died Feb. 14, 1876, and his wife and two children survive him. The younger, who is the subject of this sketch, received a good common-school education, which she completed at Medina, and commenced teaching when 17 years old. Dec. 12, 1860, she became the wife of Lambert E. Cook, who came here from New York State when only 8 years old. He was born May 27, 1809, and throughout his life was an industrious and frugal man. He passed the latter part of his life a resident of Seville, having a pleasant home in the suburbs of the town. He died July 20, 1876. Their union had given two children, one dying in infancy. The one living is named Bert A. Mrs. Cook is a member of the M. E. Church, her husband also having been a member many years before his death.

JOHN COOLMAN, farmer; P. O. Seville; was born April 15, 1815, in Stark Co., Ohio. His father, George Coolman, was born in Dauphin Co., Penn., and from there went to Center Co., where he married a lady by the name of Susannah Enrich, who had also come there from Dauphin Co. Farming was his principal occupation in life, although he worked occasionally at some trade, being somewhat familiar with several different ones. In 1811, he removed to Stark Co., Ohio, and, while living there, entered the army as a musician, serving two different enrollments in the war of 1812, one being as a substitute for his brother. In the autumn of 1817, he removed to Wayne Co.,

Milton Township, and remained there until the spring of 1826, he came to Guilford Township, Medina Co., where he passed the rest of his life, dying in 1828, having just got his clearing fairly started and an independent life assured. There were eight children then living, and the eldest sons developed the farm and finished the work left by the father, thus assuring an independence to their mother, who died November 17, 1880. John commenced doing for himself when 18 years old, and worked out for two years at \$10 per month. With the wages received, he bought his first farm, where he now lives, consisting of 54 acres, at \$4 per acre. It was all forest except enough for a potato patch, and, heeding the old command of "It is not good for man to be alone," secured a companion in the person of Miss Anna King, the ceremony being performed in February, 1836. Together he and wife battled with the elements of nature, and were successful from the first. He now owns 220 acres of land, much of which he has cleared himself, besides assisting his children when starting in life. With the exception of two terms, he has been Justice of the Peace for thirty years, and held other township offices much of the time. In such business as administrator, guardian, etc., he has had more experience perhaps than any other man in the county. His wife died Nov. 1, 1874, having borne six children, four of whom are living, and all are married—Jacob, Ephraim, Sarah and Susannah. All the family are members of the Lutheran Church, which Mr. Coolman joined when 18 years old, and in which he is Elder. He is a Democrat, and voted first for Van Buren for President.

C. C. DAY, editor and proprietor of the Seville *Times*, Seville; was born March 6, 1842, in Susquehanna Co., Penn., and is the youngest of a family of thirteen children born to Lysander and Hannah (Smith) Day. Both were natives of the "Old Bay State," from which they moved after their marriage to Pennsylvania, and there passed the rest of their lives. His father was a wagon-maker by trade, and at the same time conducted a farm. The subject of this sketch went into a printing office when 14 years old, but shortly after quit to attend school, as he saw the necessity of a more thorough education if he wished to succeed in his chosen profession; accordingly, he attended two years at Homer, N. Y., and then finished





his education at the "Mount Rose Normal School," conducted by Prof. Stoddard. While in the latter school, he worked in a printing office during vacations, and has ever since been engaged in the business. He has conducted a number of different papers, the first he ever owned being at Corry, Penn. In January, 1875, he came to Medina, Ohio, and was manager of the *Medina Gazette* one year. He then bought the *Seville Times*, and, under his careful management, it has prospered as never before. He was married at Jamestown, N. Y., July 4, 1865, Miss Mary E. Harris, of Corry, Penn., becoming his wife. They have four children living—Eddie, Frank, Mellie and Ross.

**JOHN DE WITT**, marble-dealer, Seville; was born at Cleveland, Ohio, Feb. 20, 1849, and is a son of William and Hannah De Witt, both of whom were reared in Germany. His father was born in the city of Berlin, received a splendid education, and for some time was one of the Government officers. He came to America soon after his marriage, and settled in Cleveland, Ohio, where he ever after lived; for many years he was a contractor in carpenter work in that city, although he did not work at the trade himself; he relinquished it for the practice of law, for which he seemed fitted by nature, as well as adoption, and which he followed about fifteen years before his death. He died in 1878; his wife survives him. John went to work in a marble-shop when 14 years old, and thoroughly mastered the trade, which he has since followed, although he has done little work in the last few years. In the latter part of the year 1876, he came to Seville, Ohio, where he has conducted a shop of his own to good advantage. He was married Dec. 28, 1872, to Miss Emma Cannon; she was born Feb. 7, 1850, and is a daughter of I. J. and Margaret Cannon. In 1873, Mr. De Witt engaged in the mercantile business, keeping dry goods, notions and millinery goods, the business being conducted principally by his wife. Their union has been crowned with one child, a boy named Frank. Both he and wife are members of the Grace Reformed Church of Akron, Ohio. He is a member of the Royal Arcanum, and has held municipal offices. He is a Republican.

**JOHN GEISINGER**, farmer; P. O. Seville; is one of the enterprising and prominent farmers of this township, in which he was born

April 2, 1819. His father, whose name was also John Geisinger, was born Oct. 18, 1792, in Northampton Co., Penn. He learned the trade of weaver, and also to run a saw-mill. He married a lady there by the name of Susan Histand, who bore him one son, named Nathaniel. In 1833, he came to Medina Co., Ohio, where he had previously bought 832 acres of land, paying for the same the sum of \$3,300. It was all located in Guilford Township, and, being forest land, he erected a saw-mill on a small stream that passed through the farm, which he conducted for a number of years. It is said that he had his loom in the mill, and, while the saw was slowly making its way through the log, improved the time by weaving. His wife having died, he conducted his own household duties for several years, when he secured another companion in the person of a Mrs. Briner. He was an energetic, thriving and successful man, clearing the greater part of his farm before his death, at that time being the largest landholder in the township. He died Feb. 25, 1854, and his wife, March 30, 1856. John, being the only child, and then only in his childhood, passed through various ordeals before reaching manhood. He lived one year with his guardian, Samuel Miller, and then eight years in Summit Co., when he returned here, where he has since lived. He owns over 400 acres of land, on which he has placed improvements that render his home one of the best in the township. He was married, Sept. 16, 1870, to Amelia T., daughter of Joseph A. and Margaret Overholt. She was born June 3, 1851, in Medina Co., and has crowned their union with four children—George G., Edwin F., Isaac N. and Samuel A. Both he and his wife are members of the Lutheran Church. He has served as Constable four years, and also as School Director. He is a Democrat.

**J. T. GRAVES**, Mayor and attorney, Seville; was born June 22, 1838, on the banks of the Erie Canal, in Niagara Co., N. Y., and is a son of Ansel and Sophia (Leland) Graves. His father was a practical farmer, and, in 1846, moved to Medina Co., Ohio, and located on a farm in the southern part of Guilford Township, near Wayne Co. He lived there until recently, when he disposed of his farm and moved to Seville. The subject of this sketch received a good common-school education, which he improved by attending the Medina High School.



When 18 years old, he commenced teaching school, which he followed for many years during the winter season. In 1864, he served a short time in his country's service, being in Co. F, 166th O. N. G. He commenced reading law about the year 1861, although he had no idea, at that time, of practicing the profession. His health would not admit of close application to study, and he ultimately came to the conclusion, that, for his own good, he had best forego the completion of his studies. However, he was admitted to the bar in 1871, and, in the summer of 1875, entered Johnson's office at Seville. The same year, he received the nomination of the Republican party for Prosecuting Attorney, unsolicited on his part, and held the office for four years. He was elected member of the Town Council in 1879, and, the following spring, was elected Mayor of Seville.

JOHN P. HARRY, physician and surgeon, Seville; was born in Lewistown, Mifflin Co., Penn., Dec. 21, 1816, and is a son of Joel and Hannah (Chorel) Harry, both of whom were natives of the Keystone State. In 1818, they removed to Ohio, and settled in Wooster. Mr. Harry, being a man of business tastes and habits, at once embarked in the mercantile business, which he followed the rest of his life, dying about the year 1825. The mother, with the assistance she received from her sons, kept the family bonds unbroken, and reared her family to maturity. She died in 1877, at a ripe old age. John received a good common-school education, and, while yet in his youth, commenced clerking in a store. His health becoming somewhat impaired, he commenced reading medical works for the purpose of better understanding the nature of his disease and the remedy therefor. He subsequently resigned his position in the store and entered the office of Dr. Overholt, of Wooster, with whom he remained two years, and then entered the Eclectic Medical College at Cincinnati, from which he graduated in 1844. Locating at Wooster, he practiced there some eight years, and then came to Medina Co., where he has since resided, and enjoyed a lucrative practice, his first location in this county being at River Styx, afterward at his present home north of Seville. In 1848, he was married to Mary Sheller, of Wooster, Ohio, her birthplace being in Pennsylvania. By this union, two children have been born—

Franklin and Mary Jane, the younger of whom died in infancy. The son is married, and conducts his father's farm. Dr. Harry cast his first Presidential ballot for Gen. Harrison, and is now a Republican.

JOHN N. HIGH, hardware, Seville; was born Sept. 1, 1834, in Onondaga Co., N. Y. His father, Nathan High, was born at Sandy Hill, Washington Co., N. Y., Jan. 25, 1799, and was a son of an emigrant from Scotland. He was a saddler by trade, and married while residing in the Empire State, Maria Gray. In the month of May, 1836, he removed to Ohio, and passed the rest of his life a resident of Seville, one of the flourishing villages of Medina Co. In 1852, he followed his eldest son to the Golden State of California, and remained there two years, when he returned to Seville. He died Aug. 27, 1879. His companion preceded him several years on that "mysterious journey from whose bourn no traveler returns," dying March 28, 1872. John learned the trade of carriage trimmer, and worked for E. Briggs, of Medina, six years, and afterward at various places throughout the country, but, wishing to engage in business of a more permanent nature, he relinquished it and went into business at Seville. He first engaged in the boot and shoe trade, and, after following it two years, engaged in the clothing business for the same length of time. He again went to work at his trade, and, in the latter part of the year 1869, secured an interest in his present business with J. C. Stoaks, as partner. In 1871, Mr. Bell became a member of the firm, and, Mr. Stoaks withdrawing in 1876, the business has since been conducted under the firm name of High & Bell. They have undoubtedly the best assortment of goods as well as the best trade in Medina Co. Mr. High was married, Oct. 16, 1856, Miss Rebecca Ross becoming his wife. She is a daughter of Thomas and Lucinda (Shane) Ross, and was born Oct. 22, 1836, near Steubenville, Ohio. Laura Wilson, now the wife of William Dodge, was the recipient of kindness from them, and reared by them from her childhood. Both Mr. and Mrs. High are members of the Presbyterian Church.

THOMAS HUNTER, physician and surgeon, Seville; is a son of John and Mary (Patton) Hunter, and was born Jan. 14, 1814, in County Donegal, Ireland. His father was a physician





and dispensary surgeon in that place, and was a man of generous impulses and kindness of heart toward all. He died in 1843, and his companion two years later. The subject of this sketch, possessing a mind both intuitive and retentive, passed the required examination in Latin and Greek to secure his apprenticeship to an apothecary, when only 15 years old. Three years later, he entered the Medical Department of the Trinity College at Dublin, where he remained two years, and then passed the same length of time at the University of Edinburgh. April 17, 1837, he graduated at Glasgow, and, although a good situation was open to him in his native land, he shortly embarked for America. He landed at New York, and, making his way from there to Baltimore, passed his first winter in an apothecary store. Determining to locate and practice his chosen profession, he came to Ohio, and, after remaining a short time in Zanesville, he pushed on to Seville, in Medina Co., where he has since remained, except a short time that he was in Trumbull Co. He has here had a large and lucrative practice, although he has of late years been endeavoring to get on the retired list. He was married, Dec. 10, 1846, to Martha R., daughter of Daniel and Sophia (Gray) Terboss. She was born Sept. 11, 1824, in Salem, Washington Co., N. Y., and was living in Mahoning Co., Ohio, when she accepted her Irish lover against the wishes of her parents. Their union has given two children—Martha A. and John T. The daughter died Nov. 6, 1868. Dr. Hunter is a man of mature judgment, and one who has made his way unaided through the world. He is a Democrat.

**JUDGE HENRY HOSMER**, retired farmer; P. O. Seville. Among the emigrants to America from County Kent, England, were three brothers by the name of Hosmer, who settled at Cambridge, Mass., and one of these was a member of the Hooker colony that went from there to Connecticut. The subject of this sketch is a descendant of that emigrant. His father, William Hosmer, was born at Hartford, and he and seven brothers entered the Continental Army, and fought gallantly for the cause of American Independence, one laying down his life at the battle of White Plains, and another dying in hospital from wounds received in battle. William married Elizabeth Barker, a native of his own State, and for many years was engaged in the manufacture of coaches and chaises; but

eventually relinquished it for farming. In 1814, he moved into Southern Massachusetts, where he remained until his removal to this State, where he died July 18, 1839, lacking only three months of being a centenarian. His wife departed this life, the 19th day of August the previous year. The subject of this sketch, whose portrait appears in this history, was born May 22, 1793, and was apprenticed to a blacksmith when in his 17th year, and worked for him two years after coming of age. On his 23d birthday, he started for the great West with a single companion, accomplishing the whole journey of over 600 miles in eighteen days, on foot. After prospecting through several counties, he selected a tract of land where the village of Seville now stands, and returning home on foot by the way of Pittsburgh, told the story of the new country. The last day of December, 1816, together with his brother Chester, sister Mary and Shubael and Abigail Porter, he again made the journey to this place. It being mid-winter, they bought an Indian cabin for \$1. in which they lived until better accommodations could be prepared, and immediately went to work clearing away the forest and getting ready for a spring crop. Henry returned once more to the Old Bay State, and brought the rest of his father's family to the pioneer home. He has done much for the improvement and advancement of this part of the county, and is a respected and esteemed citizen. He has held various township offices; was the second Corner of the county; served as County Commissioner, and for five years was Associate Judge of Medina Co., being on the bench when the present Constitution of Ohio was adopted. He was married, Oct. 30, 1820, at Avon, Lorain Co., Ohio, to Lucy Hayes. She is of Scotch descent, and was born April 10, 1798, in Hampden Co., Mass. Her mother dying when she was young, she was reared by her grandparents, and came to her sister's home in Ohio after reaching maturity. Their union has been fruitful of ten children, five of whom are living, viz., Louisa M., Henry H., Julia J., Mary Y. and Leavitt K. Judge Hosmer is still living on a part of the farm he secured when he first came here. He served in the war of 1812, and has been a member of the Masonic Order since 1824. He is a stalwart Republican.

**HON. J. C. JOHNSON**, attorney, Seville. Among the members of the bar of this county,





who have risen to prominent positions from the humble walks of life through their own exertions, we mention Mr. Johnson, who was born in Jefferson Co., Ohio, in 1820; a son of Daniel and Elizabeth (Crabtree) Johnson, who were natives of the State of Maryland. His father moved to Ohio in 1804; served in the war of 1812, and, in 1832, moved to Medina Co. He was a farmer by pursuit, and passed the rest of his life here, dying in 1857, and his companion in May, 1874. James passed his early life on his father's farm, receiving only an ordinary common-school education, and, in 1840, commenced studying law. Some three years later, he was admitted to the bar, and has since been one of the leading practitioners at the Medina County bar. He was first elected to the State Legislature in 1848, and has served three terms there as member of the lower branch, being Speaker of the House the last term. For many years, he has been prominently identified with the Ohio Farmers' Insurance Co., at first as a Director, but latterly as President of the board. He is a Democrat.

ISAAC KULP, boot and shoe dealer; Seville; among the enterprising and prosperous business men of this town, we mention the gentleman above named, who was born in Northampton Co., Penn., Aug. 3, 1813, and a son of Samuel and Lydia (Naragang) Kulp, both of whom were natives of Bucks Co., Penn. His father was a shoemaker by trade, and, in the spring of 1827, moved to Ohio and settled in Wadsworth Township, Medina Co., where he developed a piece of land, besides working at his trade. He passed the rest of his life in this county, living successively in Wadsworth, Sharon, Montville and Guilford Townships, dying in the one last named. Isaac received only a meager education, as one might judge from the schools here when he was a youth, but, in all the elements that relate to labor, he obtained a proficient drilling. Learning the trade with his father, he commenced doing for himself when 18 years of age, and would travel through the country from house to house, carrying his "kit of tools," and perform all the work pertaining to his trade before leaving. He at length settled down in Guilford Township, where he has since lived. His marriage was celebrated June 4, 1832, Miss Elizabeth Walker becoming his wife. She was born in Center Co., Penn., September 3, 1813, her

father, Matthias Walker, being a native of Germany, coming to America when in his youth, and her mother, a native of Maryland, her maiden name being Elizabeth Zigler. They moved to Wayne Co., Ohio, in 1818, where they passed the rest of their lives. Mr. Kulp continued to work at his trade a number of years after his marriage, when he relinquished it for the pursuit of farming, as he desired to bring up his family of children to habits of industry, and wisely considered the farm the most desirable place. After their growth to maturity, he again returned to his old vocation, and conducted a large business in manufacturing, but now is only a dealer. Mr. Kulp's marriage has been fruitful of seven children, six of whom are living—Mary Ann, Samuel, Elizabeth, Sarah, Lovina and Rebecca. All these are married, except the youngest, who is attending the Cleveland Homoeopathic Hospital College. Mrs. Kulp is a member of the Lutheran Church.

HON. ALVAN D. LICEY, attorney at law; River Styx; was born Sept. 13, 1832, in Hilltown Township, Bucks Co., Penn. His father, John Lacey, was a native of the same township, and was born Sept. 20, 1798, being a descendant of an emigrant from Alsace, Germany, who bought his land from William Penn. He married a lady by the name of Catharine Derstine, who was born Feb. 28, 1810, in Bucks County. In the spring of 1849, he removed to Medina Co., Ohio, where he ever after lived a respected and useful citizen. Death, the common enemy of mankind, deprived him of his companion, Dec. 12, 1874, and Nov. 3, 1880, he, too, passed away. The subject of this sketch had few advantages for obtaining an education, his school life terminating when he was only 12 years old. He then engaged as Clerk in a store, and, finally, entered the mercantile business on his own account at River Styx, Ohio, in which he was eminently successful. While thus engaged in April, 1857, he was elected Justice of the Peace for Guilford Township, and, recognizing the utility of a better knowledge of law, he employed his leisure time in that study. Upon retiring from the business of merchant, his ability had already been recognized as an Attorney, and he immediately entered into a lucrative practice. He served as Justice for a period of eighteen years, and, in 1870, was a member of the State Board of Equalization. In 1879, he received the nomination of



the Republican party for Representative to the Ohio Legislature, and was elected by the strongest majority ever given in Medina County. He was married Oct. 19, 1858, to Martha, daughter of John and Elizabeth (Sweet) Wilson; she was born in Medina County, Feb. 17, 1829. Her father, one of the first settlers of the township, was, for eighteen years, Justice of Guilford Township. He died Nov. 30, 1861. Their union has been crowned with four children—Desdemona, Ilzaide, John O. and Kate. His wife is a member of the Disciples' Church, and he of the I. O. O. F.

GEORGE P. LEE, farmer; P. O. Seville; was born in Guilford Township, Medina Co., Ohio, Aug. 6, 1840. His father, Henry Lee, was born in Jefferson Co., Ohio, Aug. 30, 1812, and is a son of John and Sarah (Lance) Lee, who came to Wayne Co. in 1821, where they underwent the usual hardships and privations that fall to the lot of early settlers. Henry received but little schooling, and the experience he obtained while helping develop his father's farm, fitted him for the task of clearing the one he now owns in this county. He bought it in 1833, and, in 1836, was married to Eleonora Bowen, who was born in Pennsylvania Dec. 8, 1819, and came to Wayne Co. in her youth. Mr. Lee's farm was covered with a dense forest, which he cleared away as fast as possible, and, by a lifetime of industry, created a valuable and productive property. He is now living a retired life, enjoying the reward that usually follows a well-spent and industrious manhood. Both he and his wife are members of the Baptist Church. George remained under the parental roof until his marriage to Aldisa, daughter of R. B. Squires, of this township. He has resided on the one farm ever since his marriage, erected substantial and tasty buildings, and surrounded his home with many attractions. On his farm we find one of the finest orchards in the county, and other evidences of thrift and industry. When 20 years old, he learned the trade of broom-maker, which he has since followed with favorable results. His marriage has been fruitful of seven children, viz., Judson (deceased), Chester R., Richard, Gracie, Bertie, Earnest, and one unnamed. It is the purpose of Mr. Lee to give his children a good and thorough education, wisely considering this of more value than riches. He is an earnest advocate of the cause of temperance, and a mem-

ber of the Baptist Church, of which he is Trustee. He is a Republican.

JACOB MILLER, farmer; P. O. River Styx; is the youngest son of Samuel and Elizabeth (App) Miller, and was born Nov. 12, 1842, in Medina Co., Guilford Township. He received a good common-school education, and, having a natural taste for music, he cultivated this, and, for three summers, was a music teacher. He also has acted as agent for the Estey Organs for several years, but does not allow this business to interfere with the management of his farm. His marriage was celebrated Feb. 3, 1867, Miss Laura Rasor becoming his wife. She was born in Wadsworth Township, Medina Co., March 22, 1848, and her father, Eli Rasor, son of Christopher and Christiana Rasor, born June 15, 1815, is said to be the first white child born in Wadsworth Township. As may be inferred, his educational privileges were poor, the greater part of his youth being devoted to the improvement of his father's farm. He was married Nov. 21, 1834, to Eliza, daughter of James and Sabilla (James) Boak. She was born Aug. 29, 1813, in Dauphin Co., Penn., her parents removing to Wayne Co., Ohio, in 1824. After his marriage, Mr. Rasor developed a farm, their first home being a cabin, and, for some time, she did the cooking by a fire out of doors, as they possessed neither stove nor fire-place. They were, in later years, in quite pleasant circumstances, and had a valuable home, created through their early labor. He died Dec. 20, 1871; his companion is yet living, making her home with her daughter, Mrs. Miller, since 1878. Mr. Miller has a pleasant home, and is noted alike for his hospitality and sociable disposition. Their union has been blessed with one child—Edwin J., born Dec. 27, 1867. Both are members of the Lutheran Church, in which he fills the offices of Treasurer and Organist. He is a Republican.

JOSEPH H. MILLER, veterinary surgeon, Wadsworth; is a son of Samuel and Elizabeth (App) Miller, and was born in Northampton Co., Penn., Feb. 28, 1836. His father was a carpenter by trade in early life, and, in the fall of 1837, removed to Ohio, where he has since lived, being a resident of Medina Co., Guilford Township. For a few years after his arrival, he worked at the trade, but relinquished it for the pursuit of farming, himself and eldest sons developing a large farm. He withdrew from





the active duties of farm life several years ago, and is yet a vigorous and well-preserved man; his companion departed this life April 6, 1879. The subject of this article was reared to the pursuit of farming, which he followed in the main until 1869; he, early in life, evinced a great desire to understand the nature and diseases of the horse, and, whenever possible, would buy books treating on this subject. He soon, through his own exertions, became well informed, and, his services being demanded much of the time, he withdrew entirely from the farm to follow the profession for which he seems designed by nature. He has been uncommonly successful, and after a two years-course, graduated in the spring of 1879, from the Ontario Veterinary College, at Toronto, Canada; he was married in February, 1859, to Miss Emeline Greisemer; she was born November 28, 1840, in Bucks Co., Penn., and came to Medina Co. in the spring of 1853, being a daughter of Isaac and Mary Greisemer; their union has proved fruitful of eight children, of whom the youngest three are living—Isaac Gilbert, Clayton Forest and George Franklin. Mr. and Mrs. Miller are members of the Lutheran Church; he is a Republican.

H. E. MATTESON, clothing store and insurance agent, Seville; was born Oct. 11, 1826, in Cortland Co., N. Y., and is son of Cyrus and Catharine (Maydole) Matteson. His father was a farmer by occupation, and in 1836 moved to Medina Co., Ohio, and settled in Litchfield Township, where he cleared over 200 acres of forest land, being ably assisted by his sons; he was a frugal and industrious farmer and devoted to his chosen pursuit. He died in 1870 in his 71st year, and his earthly companion is yet living, being in her 82d year. The subject of this sketch commenced teaching school when 18 years old, a profession he followed during the winter season for several years. He commenced as agent for the "Ohio Farmer's Insurance Company," in May, 1848, and has the honor of writing the first application ever presented them. A few years later he commenced carrying various kinds of silverware and jewelry on his tours through the country, at the same time attending to his duties as insurance agent; he followed a business of this nature for twelve years, when he engaged in the mercantile and clothing business at Seville, keeps a grocery store, boots and

shoes, etc., and for the last eight years has been a heavy dealer in wool. He has been uniformly successful in his undertakings, and is an energetic and prosperous business man. He was married in 1852, to Mary, daughter of Halsey and Betsey (Moses) Hulburt, of Westfield Township, Medina Co. Their union has been fruitful of seven children—Ida M., Charles F., Claude L., V. Clifford, Halsey H., Mary and David M.; the eldest is married. Mrs. Matteson is a consistent member of the Baptist Church; he is a stalwart Republican, and cast his first vote for James G. Birney, for President.

JAMES S. PALMER, farmer; P. O. Seville. Among the successful farmers and enterprising citizens of Guilford Township, we have no hesitation in ranking the above-named gentleman as one of the first in the county. He was born in Jefferson Co., Ohio, March 20, 1829, his father, George Palmer, being also a native of the same county. Nathaniel Palmer, George's father, was one of the first to secure a farm there of Government land, and died when but little of it had been cleared, leaving a family of small children to the mother's care. George was reared in the family of a neighboring farmer, and, after reaching maturity, he secured the whole of his father's farm, by purchasing the interests of the other heirs. He was married to a lady of that county, by the name of Elma Coulter, and passed his life in the development and care of his farm, dying in October, 1863. His companion is yet living on the "old homestead" with her youngest son. James passed the early part of his life on his father's farm, and has always been devoted to agriculture and stock-raising. His marriage was celebrated Nov. 21, 1850, Miss Margery Grafton becoming his wife. She is a daughter of Isaac and Jane (McFarland) Grafton, and was born in Jefferson Co., Ohio, March 30, 1830. Her mother died in the fall of 1863, her father is yet living. March 20, 1851, Mr. Palmer removed to Guilford Township, Medina Co., where he has since resided, owning a pleasant and attractive farm north of the village of Seville. Their union has been crowned with one child, Stella, born Jan. 15, 1855. Death has visited this family once, taking their only child, the 12th day of June, 1862. Mr. Palmer is independent in his political views, being at present identified with neither of the leading parties.



**JACOB N. REESE**, farmer: P. O. River Styx; was born in Stratford Township, Montgomery Co., N. Y., Jan. 26, 1814. His father, Nicholas Reese, was a native of that county, and was married to a lady by the name of Anna Putnam, her parents being emigrants to that county from New England. He was a farmer by pursuit, and in 1834 removed with his family to Ohio, settling at Middlebury, in Summit Co., where he passed the rest of his life, dying at the advanced age of 75 years. His companion departed this life in the month of October, 1872, in her 82d year. Jacob has always been a tiller of the soil. Dec. 31, 1835, he was married to Jane S., daughter of William and Aurelia Phelps. She was born May 22, 1819, in what is now Summit Co., Ohio, her parents coming there from Vermont in 1815, and thence to Medina Co., in 1836, settling in Wadsworth Township. In the spring of 1837, Mr. Reese removed to Medina Co., where he has since resided, owning a valuable and attractive farm, on which he can pass the rest of his life a contented and happy man. By the union of this couple, twelve children have been born, viz.: Aurelia A., born Dec. 1, 1837; William J., born Sept. 2, 1840; Elizabeth J., born Dec. 25, 1842; Newton N., born April 2, 1845; Lucia V., born Sept. 15, 1847; John B., born Dec. 4, 1849; Jacob L., born Dec. 23, 1851; Clara J., born Jan. 5, 1854; John C. Fremont, born June 13, 1856; the twins, Frederick S. and Frank S., born Aug. 5, 1860; Gertrude J., born Nov. 27, 1862. John died Feb. 14, 1854; Frederick, Oct. 28, 1860; and Fremont, April 20, 1875. The two eldest sons served in the army during the late war, and all are married except the youngest two. Mr. Reese has served as Justice of the Peace, and held other local offices, being now one of the Trustees of Guilford Township. He is a Republican.

**RICHARD B. SQUIRES**, retired farmer; P. O. Seville; was born July 10, 1819, at West Windsor, Conn. His father, Sherman Squires, was a native of that place, and son of Abner Squires, one of the heroes of the Revolutionary war, and a life-long resident of Windsor. Sherman was a farmer by pursuit, and married a lady of his native place by the name of Aldisa Blanchard. In May, 1824, he removed to Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, where he conducted a saw-mill for Henry Newberry, and boarded the hands engaged in the mill, living in the first

house ever built there. In 1826, two years later, he came to Medina Co. and settled on a small tract of land in Guilford Township, which he had previously secured. He developed this, and added materially to its size as well as value. He taught school during the winter season for a few years in order to assist him financially, and in his latter days relinquished the farm entirely. His wife died June 10, 1862, having borne two children—Henry and Richard. He was again married, and himself passed away in 1869, at the residence of his youngest son, with whom he was living. Richard commenced teaching school when 20 years old, and followed this during the winter season for six years. The rest of his life was devoted to agricultural pursuits. He was married, Feb. 3, 1842, to Caroline Miller. She was born Sept. 15, 1817, in New York State, her father, Jacob Miller, coming to this country from Holland when 14 years old, and, his father dying soon after, he was compelled to do for himself. He served in the war of 1812, and lost his property through reverses that overtook him at that time. He was married to Sally May, who died after having borne one child, also named Sally. He was then united to Emma Dix, who was born in Massachusetts, and was fruitful of twelve children. In 1837, they came to Ohio, and settled in Medina Co., which was ever after their home. He died in 1860, and his companion Sept. 13, 1876. After his union, Mr. Squires lived in Montville Township for some time, and there partly improved a farm. He sold it, however, to buy the old homestead when it was offered him by his father, and resided on it until May, 1879, when he removed to his present residence in the suburbs of Seville. Three children have blessed their union—Victoria A., Amy Aldisa and Sherman B. All are married, and the oldest and youngest have taught school. In this profession, the family is somewhat remarkable, the father, mother, son, daughter and grandfather having, at various times in life, been teachers. Mr. Squires has served as Trustee for several years. He is a Democrat, and cast his first ballot for Wilson Shannon.

**JAMES C. STOAKS**, planing-mill and lumber-dealer, Seville; was born March 13, 1827, in Steuben Co., N. Y. His father, John Storks, was born in New Jersey, reared in Orange Co., N. Y., and is a son of Alexander Storks, who





came to America from Ireland. He was a school-teacher by profession, and served with distinction in the Revolutionary war. John was a wagon-maker by trade, and married a lady by the name of Clarissa Sutton, a native of Orange Co. Her father, William Sutton, was of Scotch descent, and one of the heroes of the Revolutionary war, in which he was taken prisoner, and suffered without a murmur in defense of his country. In 1844, John Stoaks, with his wife and family of nine children, removed to Seville, Ohio, where he died the following year, being then in his 50th year. His wife died in 1852. James learned the trade with his father, but, unlike many others who leave the parental roof when of legal age, he supported the family until the death of his mother, which separated the family. He followed the trade, and was doing a good business in Seville, but, in 1864, he closed his shop, and he and his thirteen hands, with one exception, entered the army, that one being unfit for military duty. He enlisted in Co. F, 166th O. N. G., and was detailed for duty in the commissary department. On his return, he farmed four years, and then engaged in the hardware business, which he followed until recently, when failing health induced him to withdraw and enter into his present business relations. His marriage was celebrated Sept. 26, 1851, Maria L. Cook becoming his wife. She was born July 4, 1830, in Medina Co., Ohio, being a daughter of Alva and Lydia (Cooper) Cook, old settlers of the county. Mr. Cook died in 1860, and Mrs. Cook in February, 1880. Mr. Stoaks' union has been fruitful of three children—Hattie (wife of William Cunningham), Mary E. (teacher in the Seville schools) and Sarah B. They are members of the Presbyterian Church, which Mr. Stoaks joined when 14 years old, and in which he has been Elder twenty-five years. Is a Republican, and voted first for Van Buren, on the Free-Soil ticket.

C. A. STEBBINS, druggist, Seville; is one of the energetic and successful business men that we find in the pleasant town of Seville, and a desirable acquisition he is in all respects. He was born in Wayne Co., Ohio, June 6, 1852, and his father, W. P. Stebbins, is also a native of the same county and a descendant of one of the early pioneers. He was reared to the pursuit of farming, which occupation he followed until recently, when he engaged in other busi-

ness, being at present in the banking business at Seville. He secured for his companion through life, a lady by the name of Mary Gline, who was born in Niagara, N. Y., and came to Wayne Co., Ohio, during her childhood. The subject of this sketch passed his early life on his father's farm, but, considering a business career more suited to his taste, he embarked in the drug trade at Pike Station, in November, 1877, where he remained until February, 1879, when he came to Seville. He was married, Jan. 29, 1874, to Mary E., daughter of Henry M. and Jane (Cook) Viets. She was born Oct. 12, 1854. Both Mr. and Mrs. Stebbins are members of the Presbyterian Church, and, although they have no children of their own, have befriended a motherless child named Winnie Hull. He is a member of the Royal Arcanum, and is identified with the Republican party.

L. B. WILSON, farmer; P. O. River Styx. Among the early settlers of Medina Co., who underwent the hardships and privations incident to all pioneers, we have the pleasure of chronicling the Wilsons as the first to settle in the township of Guilford. David Wilson was born Oct. 12, 1790, in Ohio Co., Va., and is a son of William Wilson, who came to America about the year 1775, from County Antrim, Ireland, and at that time was a single man. He espoused the cause of his adopted country in her struggle for independence, and fought gallantly till the close, except the one year he was a prisoner, having been captured at the battle of Brandywine. He married a Pennsylvania lady by the name of Jane Martin, and in the year 1806 removed to Trumbull Co., Ohio, where he passed the rest of his life. David served one year in the war of 1812. In the latter part of the year 1816, accompanied by his brother John, came to Medina Co., and together they started a clearing in the northeastern part of Guilford Township, the site having since been known as "Wilson's Corners." They remained here only a few weeks, however, then returned to their home in Trumbull Co., where they passed the winter, coming again in the spring, making this their permanent home. The first marriage in the township was celebrated Dec. 15, 1818, Abigail Porter becoming the wife of David Wilson. She was born July 5, 1792, and was a member of the Hosmer colony that settled in this township soon after the Wilsons. Their union extended over a





period of nearly fifty years, her death occurring July 19, 1866. Mr. Wilson is yet living. The subject of this sketch was born Nov. 22, 1833, in Guilford Township, Medina Co.; is the youngest son born to the above couple, and received a good common-school education, which he completed at the Baldwin University. He chose the pursuit of farming, as it seemed congenial to his tastes, and in this he has been quite successful. He was married, May 27 1873, to Jane Sabilla Colbetzor, of Wadsworth Township. She was born July 6, 1845, and has blessed their union with two children, viz.: Hallie Kathleen, born Aug. 17, 1874; David Dudley Lamar, born March 16, 1876. In April, 1876, Mr. Wilson was chosen Justice of the Peace for Guilford Township, an office he has since held. He was a Republican at first, but has been identified with the Democratic party since the administration of Andrew Johnson.

GEORGE H. WUCHTER, physician and surgeon, River Styx; was born in Wadsworth, Medina Co., Ohio, Sept. 4, 1858. His father, Jonas H. Wuchter, was born and reared in Lehigh Co., Penn., and there learned the trade of cabinet-maker. He was married to a lady by the name of Mary A. Brobst, and, coming directly to Ohio, located in Medina Co., where he has since resided and worked at his trade, for many years having kept a cabinet and furniture store at Wadsworth. The subject of this sketch, like most other sons in similar circumstances, passed an uneventful and quiet youth, graduating from the Wadsworth High School in 1877. He studied medicine successfully in the offices of Dr. Briggs and Dr. Lyman, and, in September, 1877, entered the medical department of the University of Pennsylvania, from which he graduated in March, 1880. The following May, he located at River Styx, where his ability and worth were soon recognized, and will undoubtedly secure him the practice he so well deserves.

A. D. WELDAY, farmer and stock-dealer; P. O. Seville; was born in Wayne Co., Ohio, Jan. 14, 1831. His father, Abraham Welday,

was born and reared in Jefferson Co., Ohio, and enlisted to serve in the war of 1812, but the war closed before he reached the scene of action. He married a lady by the name of Jane Hoffstatter, who was born in Virginia, and, when young, accompanied her parents to Jefferson Co., Ohio. Shortly after his marriage, Mr. Welday moved to Wayne Co., and settled on a farm of forest land. He worked at his trade of carpenter and millwright during the summer, and cleared on his farm in the winter season. In the course of years, after enduring many hardships, the farm became one of the most arable in the county, and annually rewarded him for his early toils. He died in the fall of 1866, his companion some two years previous. The subject of this sketch commenced doing for himself when of age, and earned his first money at the carpenter's trade, receiving \$9 per month for six months. The next winter he went East with a horse-dealer, for the purpose of seeing the country, and paid his way by leading and helping care for the animals. Going to work at his trade again, he soon broke his leg, which disabled him permanently for that business, and he has since followed farming and stock-dealing with good success, making at present a specialty of thoroughbred cattle. He assisted in securing the right of way for the C. T. V. & W. R. R., and Superintended the fencing of the road as well as repairs and constructions. He moved to this county in 1864, where he owns over 200 acres of land, besides having Western property. He was married, Oct. 16, 1856, to Mary E., daughter of Oren and Dorcas (Cronk) Foster. She was born Aug. 3, 1834, in Essex Co., N. Y. In 1836, the family moved to Pennsylvania where they lived four years, when they removed to this State. Their union has given seven children—Francis L., Willis W., Elsie H. (deceased), Charles B., Leslie L., Mary Effie, and Ray. The eldest is married. He is a member of the Masonic order and Royal Arcanum, being Regent of the latter order. He is a Democrat.



## YORK TOWNSHIP.

**FRANKLIN BURT**, Mallet Creek; was born in Granger Township, Medina Co., Ohio, Feb. 13, 1831. He is a son of Matilda and C. C. Burt, the mother's maiden name being Hickox. The Burts came from New England to Medina Co., Ohio, in March, 1819, and to York Township in 1842, where the parents are yet living. Franklin Burt passed his youth and early manhood on a farm, receiving a common-school education. When 21 years of age, he began for himself, laying aside his wages until he had enough to start a home. He was married, in December, 1853, to Jane Crissman, daughter of Daniel Crissman. To this union there were born seven children, six of whom are yet living—Clara (now wife of E. H. Phillips), Vernon, Floyd, Phaxon, Harvey, Mary and Elva. Mrs. Burt was born July 27, 1831. Mr. Burt owns 127 acres of excellent land; is a Republican in politics, and he and his wife are members of the Protestant Methodist Church at York Center. Mr. Burt is an enterprising and industrious farmer, and is among the best citizens in York Township.

**L. B. BRINTNALL**, deceased; was born in New Haven Co., Conn., Dec. 19, 1814. He is a son of Thomas and Lydia (Wright) Brintnall, who were parents of six children, as follows: James M., Lemuel B., Melissa, Aurelia, Monroe W. and Franklin T.; Monroe died in Jefferson Co., Ill., March 23, 1845. Lemuel B., together with his parents, moved from Connecticut to Genesee Co., N. Y., in 1815, and, in 1831, emigrated to York Township, Medina Co., Ohio, coming the second year after the earliest settler in the township had arrived. They came overland with a neighbor, each having a team. Mr. Brintnall owned a yoke of oxen, and these were used to draw the household goods of the two families, while they rode in their neighbor's wagon, which was drawn by a team of horses. The men took turns walking and driving four milch cows, and thus they arrived in York Township. Mr. Brintnall located in the eastern part of the township, and immediately began clearing and improving a farm. Here the subject of this biography passed his youth un-

til he reached his majority. From the time he was 17 until he was 21, his time was employed, in the winter, in teaching school. In 1843, he was united in marriage with Lydia, daughter of Thomas Sayles, Esq., and to them were born eleven children—Francis, born June 10, 1844; Emma I., Oct. 23, 1845; Thomas, Jan. 13, 1847; Eliza, Sept. 13, 1848; Charles, Dec. 24, 1849; Dwight, Feb. 13, 1852; Helen J., Dec. 1, 1853; Arthur, Nov. 7, 1855; E. W., April 13, 1868; Elmer E., July 2, 1860; and Wesley L., July 15, 1862. Mrs. Brintnall was born Feb. 16, 1817. Mr. Brintnall was a Republican in politics, and a member of the Congregational Church at York Center. On Feb. 2, 1879, he was taken down with typhoid pneumonia, and, after five days of suffering, died. Mr. Brintnall was a fond husband and a kind father, and his death was deeply deplored by a large circle of friends and acquaintances. The widow still continues to reside on the old homestead.

**H. C. A. BACKER**, farmer; P. O. Medina; was born in Hanover, Germany, March 11, 1825. He is a son of Henry and Dora (Dethers) Backer, who were parents of seven children, only three of whom are now living. The father was a farmer, and, to better his circumstances and give his children proper advantages for securing an education, emigrated to the United States, landing in New York in 1830. After a year's stay in New York, he, with his family, came to Cleveland, and, in 1831, came to Medina Co., Ohio, locating in Liverpool Township, where they lived until their parents' deaths. Mr. Backer was a hard-working and industrious citizen. On his arrival, he ran in debt for 30 acres of land, which was all paid for at the time of their respective deaths. Our subject passed his early career on the farm in Liverpool Township; and, in 1845, was united in marriage with Elizabeth, daughter of Conrad Rinner, and by her had seven children—Henry, Katy, Louisa, Henry, Jr., Frederick, Wilhelmina and William. Of these, only Katy, Frederick and Wilhelmina are now living. Mrs. Backer was born in Germany in 1823. After the death of his parents,





our subject bought out the heirs and commenced living on the old homestead. In 1869, he came to York Township, and has ever since resided there. He is independent in politics, and he and wife are members of the German Lutheran Church. Mr. Backer owns 119 acres of well-improved land, which he has gained principally by hard labor, honesty and frugality. His father was a soldier under the great Napoleon, and was a sharp-shooter. He was in that never-to-be-forgotten battle—Waterloo—where Napoleon received such a crushing defeat.

E. A. BRANCH, farmer; P. O. Medina; was born Sept. 3, 1818, in New York, and is a son of the old pioneer, Judge Levi Branch, of whom appropriate mention is made elsewhere in this work. Mr. Branch was reared on a farm, receiving but a moderate education. He came with his parents to York Township, in 1830, and, on the 16th of November, 1842, was united in marriage with Sarah S. Gardner, daughter of Levi and Lydia (Stickney) Gardner, and by her had six children—E. L., now wife of Lyman Watkins; Ella F., widow of M. Gardner; Martha, now dead, and three others who died in infancy without being named. Mrs. Branch was born in Monroe Co., N. Y., in 1824, and her folks were old settlers in York Township. Besides their own children, Mr. and Mrs. Branch have adopted three boys, whom they have raised from infancy, they adopting the surname of Mr. Branch. These were Theodore (deceased), Fremont A. and Willis A. Mr. Branch is a Republican in politics, and has held various township offices. He owns 148 acres of well-improved land. He and wife are members of the Congregational Church, and are well-known and highly respected citizens.

A. C. BOWEN, farmer; P. O. Mallet Creek; was born in Berkshire Co., Mass., March 16, 1812. He is a son of Peter and Polly (Apthorp) Bowen, and is a descendant of old and honored families of New England. Mr. Bowen was reared upon a farm, and in youth received a good common-school education. During the month of June, 1837, he came to Medina Co., Ohio, locating in La Fayette Township. In 1850, he moved to York Township, where he has ever since resided. On the 6th day of September, 1838, he was united in marriage with Miss Cecelia M. Branch, daughter of Elisha Branch, and by her had five children—Angelina M., now wife of A. Depew; Myron E., dead;

Myra E., dead; Delia S., dead, and M. M., now the wife of S. W. Bachtell. Mr. and Mrs. Bowen are hard-working and industrious people. They are consistent and devoted members of the Congregational Church at York Center. Mrs. Bowen is a refined and well-educated lady. They own 61 acres of well-improved land, and are classed among the old settlers of York Township.

NELSON T. BURNHAM, farming; P. O. Medina; is a native of Connecticut, and was born on a farm in Hartford Co., Dec. 26, 1811. His early life was passed on the farm, during which time he received a limited education in the common schools of his neighborhood. On becoming of age, he engaged as salesman with a clock establishment, receiving a salary of \$35 per month the first year, and \$50 per month the second year, after which he continued the business on his own responsibility, buying and selling for himself, and operating by team in Pennsylvania and the western portion of Virginia. After a total experience of five years in the clock trade, Mr. Burnham settled down to mercantile business in Middletown, Conn., where he remained until 1846, in the fall of which year he came to Ohio, locating on his present place. May 26, 1842, he married Miss Emily Clark, a native of Litchfield Co., Conn. She, together with her parents, came to Medina Co., Ohio, about the year 1837. To her marriage with Mr. Burnham, there were born eight children, of whom five are now living—Nellie M., wife of Prof. Hendrickson, Professor of Mathematics in the Naval Academy, at Annapolis, Md.; Mary E., now Mrs. Packard, of Covert, Mich.; Franklin Y., farmer, lives on part of the home farm; Edward, at home, and Andrew L. is in business in Medina. Of the deceased, Arthur N. died in infancy; Frederick N. and Josephine E. lived to maturity; all died at home, and were buried at Medina. Though starting in life with no capital but a stout heart and willing hands, Mr. Burnham has, by economy and well-directed effort, been very successful in business. He now owns over 500 acres of land, on which he is just completing an elegant brick residence, and one of the finest in the county. The interior of this house was arranged according to Mrs. Burnham's own orders, and, as a house of convenience, it is not excelled by any in the county. Taking the house as a whole, it is a model of convenience and architectural beauty, reflecting much



credit to Messrs. Thomas Gower, mason, and Richard Gibbins, carpenter, under whose management the building is being completed.

WILLIAM BOWMAN, farmer; P. O. Mallet Creek: is a son of Christopher and Sylvia (Shafer) Bowman, and their parents were natives of Pennsylvania, where they were married. From Pennsylvania, they moved to Stark Co., Ohio, in 1820. After pioneers' experience there for seven years, they removed to Sugar Creek Township, Wayne Co., Ohio, and from there to La Fayette Township, Medina Co., in 1835. They resided here in the wilderness, building up a home, until their respective deaths, which occurred the same day in September, 1863. On his arrival in La Fayette Township, Mr. Bowman had but about \$10 in all, and this he advanced on his farm, which consisted of 110 acres. By degrees, and by the hardest labor, this farm was finally cleared of all expense in about 1855. William, the subject of this biography, was born in Wayne Co., Ohio, June 1, 1830, and is one in a family of fourteen children. He passed his youth and early manhood on the farm in La Fayette Township. On Dec. 11, 1852, he married Sarah J., daughter of Michael and Leua (Wheeler) Troxler, and by her had five children—Willis, delph; Delpha, Silva, Silvina and Frank. Mrs. Bowman was born in Summit Co., Ohio, Oct. 16, 1833. May 2, 1863, Mr. Bowman enlisted in Company D, 166th O. V. I., and served 113 days. Both of his grandfathers were in the Revolutionary war, serving the colonies faithfully. His daughter Delpha is the wife of Levi Stone, and is a resident of York Township. Mr. Bowman owns 150 acres of well-improved land. He is a staunch Republican in politics, and he and wife are members of the Disciples' Church at La Fayette Center.

DAVID H. BENNETT, farmer and stock-raiser; P. O. Mallet Creek. There is no family more worthy of a sketch in this work than the family of Mr. Bennett, of York Township. Mr. Bennett is a son of Oliver and Betsey (Ford) Bennett, who came to Brunswick Township, Medina Co., Ohio, in 1827. Mr. Bennett was a native of New Hampshire, and his wife of Massachusetts. They were married in New York, and were parents of ten children, seven of whom are yet living. Our subject was born in Orleans Co., N. Y., March 5, 1820, and was reared on a farm, and, in after years, has made that his business. His father died August, 1863, and

his mother August, 1859. On the 10th of April, 1845, he was united in marriage with Mary Tillotson, daughter of the old pioneer Daniel Tillotson, who came to Brunswick Township at the early date of 1815. To this union, were born six sons and one daughter—Lucius H., Francis O., Charles E., Fred D., Elmer E., Milo A. and Ida M. Francis, Charles and Fred are married. After his marriage, Mr. Bennett worked his father's farm four years, receiving one-third of the proceeds. In 1849, he came to York Township, and settled on the farm he now owns, buying at that time 50 acres, paying \$250 cash, with a balance of \$550 to pay. He worked very hard here, and, at the end of a few prosperous years, was enabled to pay the full amount for the land. By degrees, he has since added, until he now owns a fine farm of 97 acres, which is clear of all incumbrances, which he has gained by legitimate farming. Mr. Bennett is a staunch Republican in politics, and an earnest worker in the advancement of education. Mrs. Bennett was born in Brunswick Township Oct. 11, 1821. Mr. Bennett's father served all through the war of 1812; enlisting as private, he was promoted to Orderly Sergeant. Mr. Bennett and wife are esteemed citizens of York Township.

LEVI H. BRANCH, deceased. He was born in Monroe Co., N. Y., July 21, 1816. He is a son of Judge Levi and Polly (Stone) Branch, the old pioneers of York Township. He, together with his parents, came to York Township in the fall of 1830, and, up to his death, always made York his home. Mr. Branch was reared on a farm, receiving a good common-school education. April 16, 1839, he was united in marriage with Miss Mary A. Bowen, daughter of Peter and Polly (Apthorp) Bowen, and sister of A. C. Bowen, a sketch of whom appears in this work. Peter Bowen was born Nov. 20, 1788, and Polly Apthorp, his wife, was born March 11, 1787. They were married Dec. 23, 1810, and to them were born ten children, eight of whom are yet living. They came overland by wagon from Berkshire Co., Mass., to York Township, Medina Co., Ohio, in 1838. Mr. Bowen departed this life Sept. 29, 1871, and Mrs. Bowen Nov. 15, 1861. To the union of Levi H. Branch and Mary A. Bowen, there were born the following family: Alvin L., Sidney S., Nelson L., Henry M., Hylas K., Milo E., Caleb B. and Mary E. Alvin and





Nelson are now dead; Sidney served his country in the late war, in Co. K, 8th O. V. I. He is now in Michigan, having married Anna Hudson. Hylas and Henry are in the same State, the former marrying Josie Barragar and the latter Agatha Gardner. Milo married Miss Alma Gardner, and resides with his mother. Mary is single and lives at home. Mrs. Branch was born April 12, 1819. In about 1862, Mr. Branch's health began failing, and finally terminated in his death, which occurred July 19, 1872. He was a kind husband and an affectionate father. He was regarded by his friends and neighbors as an excellent farmer and an honorable, upright gentleman. Mrs. Branch survives him, and continues to reside on the home place near Erhart, in York Township. The homestead consists of 137 acres, while Milo owns 77 acres adjoining it. The Branches and Bowns are among the best and most influential citizens in York Township.

ZIMRI COOK, farmer; P. O. Mallet Creek; is one in a family of fourteen children, their names being as follows: Zuriel, Zerena, Zerema, Zimri, Zephrona, Zerusha, Zetna, Zegustus, Zelora, Zethaniel, Zeruth, Zelotus, Zedelia and Zejames. Of these, Zuriel and Polly (Lumbard) Cook were the parents. Zimri Cook was born in Jefferson Co., N. Y., in January, 1813. In 1832, he, with his parents, emigrated to Ohio, locating in York Township, Medina Co., where the parents remained until their respective deaths; the father died Aug. 26, 1849, and Mrs. Cook died Aug. 26, 1869. On their arrival in the county, there was but a sixpence in money in the entire family, and with this start the parents struggled on, and at the time of their deaths were worth considerable property. When ten years old, Zimri hired out to the neighbors to work on their farms, and assist the settlers generally. He continued working out in that manner until 1830. He was married in the State of New York, Jan. 11, 1843, to Elizabeth E. Brown, daughter of Charles Brown, Esq., and by her had the following-named family: Margaret E., Charles B., Thamsan E., Horatio Z., Elizabeth and Medora. Medora is now dead. Margaret resides in Michigan, the wife of W. H. Brooks. Charles is an express messenger, in Omaha, Neb. Thamsan is single and lives at home with his parents. Horatio married Elva Pritchard, and lives in Kansas. Elizabeth is the widow of Nathaniel

Firman, and she resides with her parents. The mother of these children died July 3, 1861, and Mr. Cook married Fanny Merriman as his second wife, the marriage taking place May 24, 1865. The present Mrs. Cook was a daughter of Oliver Caswell, and the widow of Nathaniel Merriman. Mr. Cook is a Republican in politics, and an intelligent gentleman.

ORLANDO DICKERMAN, farmer; P. O. Mallet Creek; was born in Medina Co., Ohio, Nov. 15, 1826; he is a son of Clement and Almira (Ormsby) Dickerman; his parents were among the early pioneers of Medina Co., and their coming to the county influenced many other families to come. Orlando was reared on a farm, receiving a common-school education. Jan. 1, 1851, he was united in marriage with Elizabeth, daughter of Arza and Achsah (Lampson) Pearson, and by her has three children—Achsah (deceased), Clark P. and Henry C. Mr. Dickerman is a Republican in politics, and is the owner of 100 acres of finely improved land. He and family are well respected wherever known, and are among the enterprising citizens in York Township.

REUBEN GARDNER, farmer and stock-raiser; P. O. Mallet Creek. Among the old and honored pioneers of York Township are Reuben Gardner and wife. Mr. Gardner was born in Monroe Co., N. Y., Dec. 6, 1816; his parents, Levi and Lydia (Stickney) Gardner, were natives of New England, and parents of a family of ten children, three of whom are now dead. Reuben's early youth was passed on his father's farm, at which period he received a good common-school education. During the fall of 1831, Levi Gardner and family moved into York Township, Medina Co., Ohio, settling on 160 acres of woodland, for which he had previously traded 30 acres in New York, making an even trade. Mr. Gardner, Sr., was a man of good education, and proved to be a valuable addition to the little colony of settlers then beginning to locate in this township. He and wife are both dead. They lived long enough, however, to see the work they had so successfully begun in clearing and improving merge into pleasant homes and valuable land for their descendants. Reuben Gardner was married, Aug. 9, 1840, to Mary E. Branch, daughter of "Judge" Levi Branch and Polly (Stone) Branch; to this union were born the following family: Polly (deceased),





Theodore C., Almeda M., Lucretia, Fanny A., Chloe M., Lydia L., Eva A., Harry R., Martha H. (deceased), and one unnamed that died in infancy. Theodore is a merchant in Millbrook, Mich.; Almeda married a Mr. Pond, and lives in Brooklyn, N. Y.; Lucretia is the wife of B. H. Hale, and resides in York Township; Fanny is a missionary among the idol-worshipping inhabitants of Japan; Chloe is the wife of E. L. Phillips; Lydia is the wife of H. F. Cummings, and both reside in Mecosta Co., Mich.; Eva is the wife of J. D. Holcomb, and resides in York Center; Harry is a young man not yet of age, and is attending business college in Brooklyn, N. Y. Mrs. Gardner was born Jan. 19, 1822; her parents came to York Township in 1830, and were among the earliest settlers in the township. Mr. Gardner is a Republican in politics, while he and his wife are members of the Congregational Church at York Center. They own a large and well-improved farm.

JACOB GAYER, farmer; P. O. Medina; was born in Germany Feb. 4, 1808; he is a son of Charles and Susan (Miller) Gayer, who were parents of seven children, only four of whom are yet living. In 1823, Jacob, with his parents, emigrated to the United States, coming direct to Medina Co., settling in Liverpool Township. In 1834, he was united in marriage with Frances R. Gollmer, daughter of Joachim Gollmer. In 1850 he purchased his present place, where he has lived peacefully ever since. He now owns 76 acres of well-improved land, about one mile northwest of Medina. Mr. and Mrs. Gayer's children are as follows: John (dead), Caroline (dead), Henry, Gottlieb, Charles, Frances, Jacob, William, Augustus (dead) and Caroline. Henry married Sarah Keller, and lives in Medina; Gottlieb married Mary Katzmier, and lives in Wood Co., Ohio; Frances is the wife of George Sheldrick, and lives in Medina; Jacob married Frederika Mayer, is a carpenter and lives in Akron, Ohio. William married Christina Beek, and is in the same business with his brother Jacob in Akron. Mrs. Gayer's parents came to Liverpool Township, Medina Co., Ohio, from Germany in 1830, and they were the first Germans in the county, and to their coming can be attributed the German element now in Medina Co.; Caroline, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gayer, is a young lady of more than usual accomplishments, upon whom the parents have

bestowed a finished education. She has taught in a number of colleges and normal schools of Northern Ohio, and is a competent and thorough instructor in Greek, Latin, German and English. Henry and Gottlieb were brave and efficient soldiers in the late war, and served their country faithfully. Mr. Gayer is a Democrat in politics, and he and wife are members of the German Lutheran Church.

FRANCIS GARDNER, farmer and Postmaster, Abbeyville; was born in Baden, Germany, in 1823; he is one in a family of six children, only three of whom are yet living. The parents of this family were Francis and Genevieve (Burkard) Gardner, who were also natives of Germany. The father was a miller by trade, and Francis, Jr., learned this trade thoroughly of his father. In 1845, he was united in marriage with Clara Slaughter, daughter of Francis Slaughter. In 1849, Mr. Gardner, with many others of his countrymen, rebelled against the King of Germany for his tyrannical conduct, and he was immediately assigned to Gen. Franz Sigel's corps with the rank of Lieutenant. The history of that rebellion is well known, and is needless of a repetition here. Mr. Gardner served gallantly in this war, but, with the rest of the troops, was compelled to surrender after a bloody struggle. Gen. Sigel barely escaping with his life to Switzerland. After his capture, and when the insurrection had ceased, a great many of the prominent offenders were executed, and Mr. Gardner expected daily that his turn would come next. Finally, by the aid of friends, he escaped, and, boarding a vessel bound for America, sailed for that refuge beyond the Atlantic. He arrived in New York in 1852, after a voyage of forty days; he remained here a short time, and then, together with his family, came to York Township, Medina Co., Ohio, and has ever since made that his home. To his union with Miss Slaughter, there were born eleven children, all being dead but the following: Philomena, Maria, Caroline, Theresa and Lucy. The mother died in April, 1864. On his arrival in York Township, Mr. Gardner purchased the mill at Abbeyville of Martin Flick, and after four years of adversity sold out and commenced butchering, and this he followed about six years. In December, 1869, he purchased 150 acres of his present farm, and that, with the little lot he owned besides, made him



a nice farm of 162 acres. In April, 1876, he was commissioned Postmaster at Abbeyville, and has retained that office up to the present. Mr. Gardner is a Republican and a member of the Catholic Church, and is an intelligent and influential citizen.

ELI HUBBARD, farmer; P. O. Medina; is a native of the "Nutmeg State," and was born Jan. 23, 1828. He is a son of A. W. and Miranda (Prince) Hubbard, who were parents of a family of six children, four of whom are yet living—Almira, Eli, Julia, Lysander T., Cynthia A., deceased; and one child, a twin brother to Eli, who died in childhood without being named. The parents of these children were from New England. They came to York Township from Genesee Co., N. Y., in 1837, and are classed among the early settlers of York Township. These parents were honest and industrious, and were among the township's best and most highly respected citizens. The subject of this biography was reared on a farm, receiving a common-school education in youth. Sept. 15, 1855, he was united in marriage with Emily C. Goodrich, daughter of Joshua Goodrich, descendant of an old family. To his marriage with Miss Goodrich, there were born two children—Melva J., now wife of Henry Caswell, and Frankie A. The latter is a young man, single, and resides with his parents in York Township. Mr. and Mrs. Hubbard are members of the Congregational Church in Medina. Mr. Hubbard owns 100 acres of fine farming and grazing land. Is a Republican in politics, and a kind, enterprising gentleman.

J. R. HOLCOMB, of the firm of J. R. Holcomb & Co., Mallet Creek; was born in Hudson, Ohio, June 15, 1847. He is a son of Walter and Jane E. (Candee) Holcomb, who were parents of five children. Of this family, only J. R. and Charles F. are now living. The parents are yet living, and their home is in York Center. The Holcombs, like a large proportion of the earliest settlers, and like many who came to Ohio in later years, were from the New England States, and were honest and industrious people. Prior to his becoming 18 years of age, J. R. Holcomb spent much of his time going to school. After that, and until 1870, he followed the occupation of house-painting, and, during the next three years, followed a variety of pursuits. In 1873, he came

to York Center, and, with only a small hand printing-press, began a general business of card printing. By degrees, and by judicious advertising and close attention to business, Mr. Holcomb increased the scope and extent of the enterprise, until it afforded him a fair revenue. Soon after his commencement in York Center, he, in connection with his card-printing, started a general novelty business, and this he has continued ever since with success. In 1875, his business had so increased as to render necessary the building of a larger establishment, and accordingly he erected a large and commodious two-story building, in which is now carried on the business of the partnership. In September, 1879, J. R. and J. D. Holcomb formed a partnership, the firm name being J. R. Holcomb & Co., the latter partner owning one-third of the stock. During the spring of 1880, Charles F. Holcomb was admitted as a partner, the name of the firm not undergoing any change. Each of the partners owns an equal share of the stock. It was during the year of 1875 that Mr. Holcomb commenced the publication of a small school journal entitled *The Teacher's Guide*. This little journal met with profitable support, and to-day it ranks among the first in the United States as a school journal, with a circulation equal to any. The *Teacher's Guide* was first issued bi-monthly, but in 1880 it was changed to a monthly periodical. It is ably edited by J. D. Holcomb, who is deeply interested in the educational work. It is an invaluable assistant to the teacher and normal conductor, and is warmly commended by able educators. J. R. Holcomb & Co. do a most extensive business. They have in store, among a great many other novelties, school supplies of all kinds, improved elastic rubber stamps, musical instruments, both foreign and domestic, books, etc. In 1878, J. R. Holcomb invented an automatic telephone, and it proves to be one of the best. The popularity of these instruments is attested by the sales, which amount to over ten thousand sets since their invention. In order to give a short sketch of the business done by this firm, we can say, that, in 1875, J. R. Holcomb was commissioned Postmaster at York Center, with a salary of \$200 per annum. Their business has so increased since that time, as to give the Postmaster a salary of \$1,400, owing almost wholly to the increase of patronage to this firm. They have two commodious





buildings, erected and especially arranged to meet the requirements of their business, in which they have three steam printing-presses, several hand-presses, lathes and other machinery, a full assortment of modern styles of type, and a large and complete stock of specialties. Their varied stock and extensive connection with the trade in the great commercial centers enable them to supply promptly all goods in their line, whether found on their regular lists or not. More of this firm will be found in the history of York Township, in this volume. In connection with the post office, J. R. Holcomb owns a grocery and provision store. This gentleman was married to Miss Minnie Damon, of Litchfield Township, in October, 1876. This lady died in 1878, and, some time afterward, Mr. Holcomb married Miss Hattie M. Nickerson, of Wadsworth. Mr. Holcomb is a prominent and influential man, and a staunch Republican in politics.

JOHN B. KNAPP, farmer; P. O. Mallet Creek; was born in Medina Township, Medina Co., Ohio, March 10, 1822. He is a son of Joseph and Betsey (Hagerman) Knapp, and grandson of John B. Knapp, after whom our subject was named. Joseph Knapp was born in Otsego Co., N. Y., Aug. 3, 1792. He lived with his parents in this county until 1810, when his mother died, and young Knapp packed all his possessions in a little bundle, which he carried over his shoulder, and thus started out, as many had before, to seek fame and fortune. His first stopping-place was in Dutchess Co., N. Y., and, liking the people, and the "lay of the land," young Knapp concluded to tarry awhile here. He was well received by the people, and, instead of going on as he expected, he remained there nine years, gaining a wife in the meantime. He was married in 1817, and two years later, started overland with his wife and two babies, for Ohio. His traveling outfit consisted of a horse hitched before a yoke of oxen, that were yoked to an old-fashioned wagon, in which were seated Mr. and Mrs. Knapp and family, with what little belonged to them. Thus equipped, they started on their long journey to Ohio, via Pittsburgh. They arrived in Medina Township, Medina Co., Ohio, in Oct. 1819, and immediately located at "Hamilton's Corners," where they lived until March, 1833, when they moved to York Township, and cleared and settled on the farm now owned by Lewis

Molock. They had lived here but five months, when the mother died, in August, 1833. Mr. Knapp remarried in July 1834, his wife being Betsey Lampson, who died October, 1863. Mr. Knapp died May 1863. Mr. Knapp's union with his first wife, was blessed with these children—Sarah, Mary, Charles, John, Zenas, Gilbert and Betsey. John B. lived with his parents until his mother's death, when he went to live with L. L. Chapin, with whom he remained until he reached his majority. He was married Jan. 11, 1854, to Sally M. Crawford, daughter of Josiah Crawford, and by her had the following family—Joseph L., one that died without being named, Charlie J., Emery J. (deceased), and Catharine R. Mrs. Knapp was born Feb. 9, 1832, and her folks were old settlers, coming to Medina Co. in 1821. Mr. Knapp is a Republican, and he and wife are members of the Protestant Methodist Church.

THOMAS MILLER, farmer; P. O. Medina. The subject of this biography was born in Cambridgeshire, England, Feb. 24, 1826. He is a son of Robert and Ann (Pooley) Miller, who were also natives of England. Mr. and Mrs. Miller were parents of eleven children, all dying in childhood except four. Mr. Miller died, and was buried in England, in 1838. Mrs. Miller continued to reside in England until 1849, and then, complying with the request of friends in the United States, took three of her children and set sail for that country. After a long and eventful voyage of eight weeks on the Atlantic, and a total of ten weeks from the time they left England, Mrs. Miller and children arrived in Medina Co., Ohio, where her deceased husband's brother then lived. She purchased the farm now owned by her son, and immediately located on it. She continued to reside in Medina Co. until the time of her death, which event occurred at her daughter's residence in Medina, in about 1871. This family, for some reason, has been very unfortunate, and, out of a large family of eleven, only the subject of this memoir is living. He was reared on a farm, working hard for the support of his widowed mother. In 1854, he married Miss Louisa Clara, and by her had two children—Robert W. C., and one daughter, who died in infancy. His wife died in 1856, and, Jan. 27, 1857, Mr. Miller was united in marriage with his present wife, Miss Sarah H. Clark, daughter of Robert and Mary (Slater) Clark. To this



union were born eight children, as follows: Lizzie M., Ann M., John T., Laura M., David A., Susie B., Electa R., and Mattie, who died when 5 months old. Mrs. Miller was born in Derbyshire, England, July 18, 1834. This family is of pure English extraction, and there is not a more intelligent family in York. Mr. Miller owns 86 acres of land in York, and 21 acres in Medina Township. He is an earnest advocate in the advancement of education, and is an influential citizen. His wife is a member of the Baptist Church.

L. D. NETTLETON, farmer. Among the many excellent farms in York Township, Medina Co., Ohio, is that owned by L. D. Nettleton. This farm consists of 108 acres of finely improved farming and grazing land, and is situated in Tract No. 2, on the diagonal road running from Medina to York Center. Mr. Nettleton, the owner, is a native of Litchfield Co., Conn. He was born March 7, 1822. His parents, Daniel and Polly (Clark) Nettleton, came with their family to Medina Co. in 1832, and were among the pioneers of Medina Township. The names of their children are Clark, Derwin, Harmon, Noble, L. D. and Mary; Harmon is now dead. Mrs. Nettleton departed this life in 1866, and two years later, Mr. Nettleton joined her in the spirit land. These parents were among Medina Co.'s best and most honored citizens. They were members of the Congregational Church, and their death was deeply deplored by a large circle of friends and acquaintances. L. D. Nettleton passed his youth on a farm, receiving a good education. He was married, Oct. 6, 1846, to Charlotte Buckingham, and by her had a family of six children—Charles (dead), Frank, Winthrop, Willie (dead), James (dead) and Carrie (dead). The two sons, Frank and Winthrop, are both married, the former to May Holcomb, and the latter to Miss Fanny Baird, both living in York Township. Mr. Nettleton's wife died Nov. 14, 1861, and April 1, of the next year, he married Mary Pritchard, daughter of Joseph Pritchard. The Pritchards were old settlers, coming to Medina Co. in 1820. Mr. Nettleton is a Republican in politics, and takes an active part in the advancement of education. Mr. Nettleton is an intelligent, enterprising farmer.

JOHN PEARSON, farmer and stock-raiser; P. O. Mallet Creek. The deeds of lineal antecedents are always of great interest to members

of a family who love to review the motives of their ancestors, and boast, in a quiet way, of having descended from a wise, a hardy or a noble stock. The details of family life are always interesting to its members, some taking a greater and some a lesser interest. No family in Medina Co. takes greater pains or more pride in their family record than does the family of John Pearson. Mr. Pearson was born in Rutland Co., Vt., June 6, 1825. He is a son of Arza and Achsah (Lampson) Pearson, and grandson of Josiah and Sarah (Howe) Pearson, and great-grandson of John Pearson, for whom he was named. The Pearsons are of Scotch descent, the great-grandfather of our subject having come to the United States from Scotland early in 1700, and who, after living a long and eventful life, died peacefully at his home. Joshua, his son, was but a youth when the Revolutionary war between the Colonies and Great Britain broke out, and, his youthful blood being fired for the cause of liberty and justice, he immediately joined the command of Gen. Gates. He bravely participated in the battles of Bunker Hill, Beemis Heights, Stillwater, and many other noted engagements, serving through them all without being wounded. He finally died, after the close of the war, of a cancer. Arza Pearson, the father of the subject of this sketch, was born Dec. 7, 1799. He spent much of his youth in the backwoods, receiving but a moderate education. In 1822, he married, and this union was blessed with a family of seven children—Amelia L., John, Elizabeth, Mary A., G. C. and Lydia, living; the one dead is Arza C. Elizabeth married Orlando Dickerman, a short sketch of whom appears in this work. The mother of these children was born in Massachusetts Oct. 17, 1799. In 1835, Arza Pearson and family moved into York Township, Medina Co., Ohio, it being then but a wilderness. He and wife are yet living, hale and hearty, and it is hoped that they may live many years to come. Mr. Pearson was quite an active politician and prominent man in his earlier years, serving at one time as County Commissioner. His son John, like himself, has always been a farmer. He was married to Miss Sarah Rowley in 1846, and by her had seven children—J. E., Eugene, Arza C. and Mary E., living, and James E., Olive E. and Charles F., dead. Mr. Pearson owns 160 acres of good land, and is a Repub-





lican in politics. He and wife are members of the Congregational Church, and are prominent and influential citizens in the township.

EMORY PIERCE, farmer: P. O. Mallet Creek; is one of a family of eight children, and was born in Berkshire Co., Mass., Jan. 5, 1808. He is a son of Levi and Dolly (Thompson) Pierce, who came to York Township, Medina Co., Ohio, in 1840. Nine years after their arrival, small-pox commenced a work of destruction, and Mr. and Mrs. Pierce were among its victims. Emory Pierce passed his youth and early manhood on a farm, receiving a good common-school education. He was married, March 17, 1831, to Lydia M. Watkins, who died March 22, 1832. Aug. 2, 1832, he married his deceased wife's sister, Miss Rosilla Watkins, and by her had six children—Lydia M., wife of Martin Bowen; Wilbur F., married to Martha Branch; Ward N., married to Adelia Wilbur; Orlin D., married to Mary Judson; Martin T., who died in the army, and Martha, deceased. Wilbur, Ward and Martin were in the late war, Wilbur as Captain, and Ward as Commissary of Co. K, 8th O. V. I. Martin L. served in Co. E, 10th O. V. C., as Corporal, and died at Murfreesboro, Tenn., from disease contracted in the service. These three boys enlisted at an early period of the struggle, and no braver soldiers were there than these. Mr. Pierce's father, Levi Pierce, was a military man, and served with distinction as Captain in the war of 1812, and afterward in the State militia as Colonel. Mr. Pierce is a Republican in politics, and owns 170 acres of fine farming and grazing land. He and wife are members of the Congregational Church at York Center, and they are well-informed and highly respected citizens of York Township.

ARZA PEARSON, retired; P. O. Mallet Creek; whose name stands prominent among the few living pioneers of Medina Co., and whose portrait appears in this work, was born in Chittenden, Rutland Co., Vt., Dec. 7, 1797. His father, Josiah Pearson, was born in Sterling, Worcester Co., Mass., June 24, 1755, and, at the breaking-out of the war of the Revolution, he entered the service of his country as a soldier. He participated in the memorable battles of Lexington and Bunker Hill, in the latter of which he received a flesh wound in one of his thighs; this, however, did not disable him for service, as he was afterward in all the bat-

tles under Gen. Gates which resulted in the capture of Burgoyne's army. In 1812, when the country was once more in danger of invasion by a foreign foe, and when the cry of "Free trade and sailors' rights" was familiar to all loyal citizens, the old veteran again shouldered his musket in the cause of liberty and the rights of every American citizen, and helped to beat back Provost and drive the whole British army back into Canada. He became a pensioner of the Government, and died at the ripe old age of 81, in Chittenden, Vt. The boyhood of Arza was spent on a farm; his advantages for attaining an education were very meager, consisting only of the imperfect schools in the country of that period. On the 18th of December, 1822, he was married to Miss Achsah Lampson, who was born Oct. 17, 1799, in Pittsford, Rutland Co., Vt. Shortly after their marriage, they began keeping house on a farm that Mr. Pearson rented and cultivated; they continued to reside there until 1835, and, during that time, there were born to them four children, viz.: Amelia L., born Dec. 15, 1823; John, born June 6, 1825; Elizabeth, born May 6, 1827; and Mary A., born April 18, 1831. Not liking the cold winters of New England, Mr. Pearson, in the fall of 1833, came to Ohio, and spent some time looking over parts of Medina Co., in quest of a desirable locality for a future home. He found it and returned to Vermont, determined to sell out and remove to Ohio. With this object in view, he, in the spring of 1835, sold his farm in Vermont, fitted out a strong two-horse wagon, and, with his family and household goods, started on a journey across the country to their new home. After a tedious ride of twenty-two days, they arrived, on May 31, 1835, at the Center of York Township, where, for a time, they stopped with Mr. R. M. Lampson, who was a brother of Mrs. Pearson, and who at that time kept a "tavern." Leaving his family at York, Mr. Pearson started on horseback through Huron, Erie, Seneca and Lorain Cos. Being as well satisfied with the country about York as any he found on his prospecting tour, he purchased of one Philo Fenn a farm of 100 acres, lying one mile west of York Center, and to it removed his family on the last of June. Mr. Pearson has since retained the ownership of that property, and, at the present date, is living with his wife upon it, with their son-in-law, Mr. O. Dickerman. He has taken an



active interest in building up and establishing churches and schools in York Township, and, to the former, he has contributed liberally toward the erection of four substantial buildings. He helped to "chop out" the wagon road, both north and south, through the center of York Township, and he has lived to see the day that beautiful homes now dot the lands then covered by heavy timber. At the election held in the township in April of 1837, Mr. Pearson was elected Justice of the Peace, in which office he was subsequently continued for twenty-four years. In the year 1847, he was appointed Real Estate Assessor for the townships of Brunswick, Medina, Montville, La Fayette, Westfield and York. In 1850, he was appointed Assistant Marshal, under Gen. Jones, of Mt. Vernon, and took the census of the townships of Sharon, Granger, Hinckley, Brunswick, Medina, Liverpool, Spencer and York. In the summer of 1858, at the county convention, he was nominated, and, at the ensuing election in October, he was elected one of the Commissioners of Medina Co., which office he filled for three years to the entire satisfaction of all interested. He has always been a strong partisan, acting with the Whig party until the organization of the Republican party, of which he has since been an active member. Even now, though he is past 83 years of age, he takes an active interest in the political issues of the day, and in the prosperity of his country. Since their becoming residents of Medina Co., there have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Pearson three children—George C., the first of their Buckeye children, was born on Aug. 26, 1836; on April 29, 1838, Arza C. was born; he lived to manhood, and, on July 17, 1861, his death occurred, caused by consumption, this being the only death that has ever occurred in their family; Aug. 21, 1840, Lydia A., their youngest child, was born. A happy event in their history was the celebration of their golden wedding, which occurred on Dec. 18, 1872, they having, at that date, lived together as man and wife for just fifty years. On this occasion, they were congratulated by their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, all of whom then living were present. Another nine years have been added to each of their lives since that event, and still they retain, to a remarkable degree, the possession of both their mental and physical powers. They are now the oldest living married couple in

York Township, and, possibly, the oldest in Medina Co. They have passed the limit allotted to man, and are now fast passing down the western slope of life. They have lived an eventful, useful and busy life, and are loved by their children, and held in high esteem by the people among whom they have lived so long.

GEORGE C. PEARSON, farmer; P. O. Mallet Creek; is a native of the township in which he lives, and was born Aug. 26, 1833. Arza and Aelsah (Lampson) Pearson, his parents, are among the old and time-honored residents of York Township, and much of them and the Pearson family will be found in another part of this work. The subject of this biography passed his youth and early manhood with his parents, and, when his majority was reached, he embarked on his own responsibility, by working his father's farm until he was married. Oct. 15, 1862, he was united in marriage with Miss Lydia L. Drake, daughter of Daniel and Almira Drake, and by her had two children—Frank Leland, born in York Sept. 15, 1863, and Lulu May, born in York April 30, 1865. Mrs. Pearson was born in Dickinson, N. Y., Aug. 2, 1841, and was one of a family of four children, Seymour, Sumner and Lyman being the three besides herself. The two former served in the late war, Seymour as Sergeant. Seymour died at Ft. Scott, from disease contracted in the army, while Sumner was killed by a ball from the enemy, at the battle of Winchester. Lyman is a teacher in the Reform School, at Plainfield, Ind. Mr. Pearson's wife died from consumption, in July, 1868. Mr. Pearson is the owner of 60 acres of good land. He is a Republican in politics, and an intelligent and enterprising citizen.

JESSE SEELEY, retired farmer; P. O. Mallet Creek; was born in Schoharie Co., N. Y., Aug. 8, 1808. His father, David Seeley, was a native of Connecticut, and his mother, Ursula (Sweetman) Seeley, was a native of New Jersey. Jesse was raised on a farm, and, as his father's health was very poor, the care of the family fell upon his shoulders, as he was the eldest. He thus learned in early years to be self-reliant, which proved to be of great benefit in later years. He was married in Schoharie Co., N. Y., to Miss Prudence Brown. Mr. Seeley is one in a family of twelve children; Mrs. Seeley is one in a family of thirteen, and together they are the parents of fifteen children. They





have one son, Samuel B., now living in Michigan, who is the father of twelve children. Mr. and Mrs. Seeley's children are: Marietta, John V. K., Hester M., Caroline F., Elizabeth P., Wesley A., Samuel B., George D., Harmon J., Emma J., Adelia, Niroom, Nathan S., David O. and Charley M. Mr. Seeley and wife came to York Township, Medina Co., Ohio, in 1835, where he has remained ever since, with the exception of seven years, when he lived in Medina. Mr. Seeley was a farmer until 1863, when he took the office of Sheriff of Medina Co., having been chosen by the people to fill that office the year before. He was an efficient officer, and, while in that office, conducted the execution of Stretator, the murderer, a detailed description of which is found elsewhere in this work. He served two years as Sheriff, and the five following years remained in Medina, in the agricultural implement business. He then moved to York Center, where he at present resides. Mr. Seeley had five sons in the late war, all of whom served their country faithfully. He is a Republican in politics, and he and wife are among the best citizens of York Township. They are the grandparents of fifty-one lineal descendants, and have five living great-grandchildren.

PAUL SWARTZ, farmer; P. O. Mallet Creek; was born in Northampton Co., Penn., July 26, 1832. He is a son of Michael and Sarah (Shook) Swartz, and grandson of Henry Shook. When Paul was but 2 years old, his mother died, and the next year, his father, with five motherless children, moved to Medina Co., Ohio. They arrived in Litchfield Township one Saturday evening, and, as their wagon was heavily laden, stuck fast in the mud within sixty rods of where he afterward built a log cabin. He remained in this condition until the next Monday morning, and then, with some assistance, extricated his wagon and journeyed on to the place he selected for his house. Mr. Swartz was in very straitened circumstances at this time, and very often he and children would go to bed hungry. These children hardly knew what it was to have a mother. Their childish pleasures and troubles were not soothed by the tender influence of a mother, and thus they lived many years. The eldest child, Elizabeth, who was but 13 years of age when they came to the township, was the only housekeeper Mr. Swartz had for many years, and right nobly did

this heroic girl fill the void destiny had made in taking away the mother, often denying herself little comforts that the younger children might have them. Mr. Swartz lived in Litchfield Township a number of years, then married Mrs. Laura Anson, and in 1859 moved to Lorain Co. Mr. Swartz's third wife was Magdaline Glossar. He was a model farmer, but his poor start prevented him ever gaining a competency, and he struggled through life working hard, and finally died in December, 1870, gaining in death a rest that had been deprived him in life. The subject of this sketch was reared on a farm, his early manhood being given to assist his father. When he reached his majority, he commenced working on a farm by the month, and continued at this two years. Nov. 2, 1854, he was united in marriage with Miss Amy Wilson, and to this union were born three children—George W., born Jan. 25, 1856, married Florence Williams and lives in York Township; Mary E., born Nov. 27, 1858, is the wife of G. B. Oviatt, and also lives in York Township; and Luna G., born Jan. 29, 1870. Mrs. Swartz was born in Summit Co., Ohio, Jan. 29, 1838. Mr. Swartz enlisted Aug. 5, 1862, in Company K, 103d O. V. I., and was discharged Oct. 11, 1863. His father was a soldier in the war of 1812. Mr. Swartz has profited much by his father's experience. He started out in life with but a very small amount of capital, and has, by economy and hard labor, gained a fine farm of 128 acres. He is regarded as an excellent farmer, and is an honest, upright gentleman. He is a Republican in politics, and Mrs. Swartz has been a member of the Protestant Methodist Church twenty-two years.

RICHMOND C. VAN ORMAN, miller, Mallet Creek; was born in Ontario Co., New York, June 26, 1829; is a son of James and Orpha (Flemming) Van Orman, who were parents of twelve children, six of whom are yet living. These parents emigrated to Granger Township, Medina Co., Ohio, in 1830, where they lived until Mr. Van Orman's death, which event occurred in 1863. For some time the widow continued to reside on the old homestead until she discontinued housekeeping, when she commenced living with her son with whom she has ever since continued to reside. Richmond Van Orman was reared on a farm; receiving a common-school education. In 1866, he purchased



the "Hart Mill," in Richfield, Summit Co., Ohio. He remained there two years and then traded his mill for one in Wayne Co. and soon traded that property for a mill in Lodi, Medina Co. In 1872, he exchanged this property for a mill in Weymouth and 104 acres of land. He had run this mill but one year, when it took fire and was burned to the ground. The general belief is that it was the work of an incendiary. Soon after the burning of his mill, Mr. Van Orman disposed of the land and in 1874, removed to York Center, where he began the building of a grist and saw mill combined, which has since been completed. The capacity of the grist-mill is about 300 bushels per day, while that of the saw-mill is from 11,000 to 12,000 feet per day. It has an excellent 40-horse steam engine, and is prepared to do a general custom business. Mr. Van Orman was married June 16, 1851, to Miss Ann R. Young, of Granger Township, and by her had seven children—Francis F., dead, Ida J., Norminda, Jennie, Richmond G., Wilna and one that died in infancy without being named. Ida married George Bruce; Norminda married F. B. Smith, and both reside in York Center. Mrs. Van Orman was born June 14, 1839, in Granger Township. Mr. Van Orman enlisted August, 1862, in Co. C, 7th O. V. I., and served faithfully in that regiment, when he was transferred, during the spring of 1864, to Co. D, 178th O. V. I., in which he served until the close of the rebellion. His final discharge was dated July 11, 1865. In the last regiment, to which he belonged, Mr. Van Orman served in the capacity of Sergeant. He participated in the battles of Stone River, Kingston and Leesburg, and was one of the brave men who captured the rebel Capt. Grub and seventy men. Mr. Van Orman was an excellent soldier, and the least that can be done for the defenders of our country is to keep a record of their deeds that the future generation may read with interest the battles of their forefathers, and live over in their imagination the scenes of the past.

MRS. L. A. WARNER, Mallet Creek; was born in Addison Co., Vt., July 25, 1816. Her parents were Zina and Betsey (Pierce) Dennison, who were parents of the following family: Laura A., George L. (deceased), Julia A., now wife of Lucius H. Warner, and Lucinda M., wife of John Depew. The father, Mr. Dennison, was born in Goshen, Conn., in 1790, and, when but a boy, moved with his parents to Waltham, Vt., where he was raised, and where he met her who afterward became his wife. She was born in Waltham, Vt. After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Dennison moved to Medina Co., Ohio, remaining in a little log house opposite where F. T. Brintwall lives, in York Township, during the winter of 1833. In 1840, they removed to Litchfield Township, same county, where they lived until Mr. Dennison died, that event being April 10, 1872. Mrs. Dennison lived there a short time and then passed the remainder of her days with her children. She died in 1877. Laura, the eldest child, and the subject of this sketch, married Horace Warner, in 1840, he being a son of Johnson and Abigail (Munson) Warner. The Warners are natives of Connecticut, and Horace was born in Waterbury, in 1805, and to his union with Miss Dennison there were born five children—Elizabeth J., Horace D., Emma I. (died when 4 years old), Millard J. and Frank E. Elizabeth lives in Westfield Township, the wife of William Chivings. Horace married Isabel Smolk, and resides in Litchfield. Millard married Mary Goodrich, and also lives in Litchfield. Frank is single and lives at home with his mother. After her marriage with Mr. Warner, Mrs. Warner lived in Lorain Co., Ohio, until Mr. Warner died, his death being caused by consumption. In 1866, Mrs. Warner located on the farm she now owns and lives upon. This farm consists of 173 acres of good land. The Dennisons and Warners were excellent citizens, and Mrs. Warner and her children are to-day regarded as among the best in Medina Co.





## LITCHFIELD TOWNSHIP.

WILLIAM H. BROOKER, molder, Litchfield; was born in Wolcottville, Litchfield Co., Conn., Feb. 9, 1826, and came with his father's family to this State and county in September, 1834. When he was 13 years old, he went to live with a Mr. Frederick Graves, who then resided in Seville. His occupation at that time was the care of horses, in which Mr. Graves dealt quite extensively. At the age of 20, through love of adventure and boyish curiosity, he resolved to enlist for the Mexican war; with two other boys, he sallied out on foot to seek a recruiting office. Going to Wooster, Ohio, they were fatefully disappointed, and trudged back, *via* Seville, to Litchfield, and thence to Monroeville; but again disappointment awaited them—the recruiting officer having met with an accident which disabled him. Nothing daunted, the three, being out of funds, laid their case before the landlord, offering him one-half of their bounty of \$8 each if he would keep them over night and carry them to Sandusky City the next day. With this he cheerfully complied, and the young men were soon made glad by their acceptance in the 6th U. S. Regular Infantry, February, 1846. Soon after, they were sent *via* Cincinnati, to New Orleans, where they took a steamer for Vera Cruz, Mexico. They arrived the same night the city surrendered to the victorious army under Gen. Scott. The first battle in which he engaged was that of Cerro Gordo, followed by that of Contreras, Churubusco, Molino del Rey, the Castle of Chapultepec, and the taking of the Mexican capital. Mr. Brooker was wounded by a musket ball passing through his leg, and at the same time three ribs were broken; this was in the fight at Churubusco. Peace was declared, and he was sent home to be mustered out of the service at Jefferson Barracks, Mo., in August, 1848. Upon his return to Litchfield, he learned the trade of molder in the furnace owned by Harvey Rice, in the creek bottom in the western part of the township. He married, Feb. 22, 1850, Miss Alsina Herrick,

born in Montgomery Township, Hampden Co., Mass., Feb. 2, 1828. Mr. Brooker continued to work at his trade until the breaking-out of the rebellion, when he entered the service as Lieutenant of Co. E, 10th Ohio Cavalry, Capt. Nathan W. Filkin. They were mustered in at Cleveland, Jan. 15, 1863. He was in several skirmishes in Tennessee, when, on account of some disagreement with his regimental commander, he resigned in February, 1865. He remained at home about six weeks, when he again entered the service as Lieutenant of Co. E, Capt. Nobles, 182d O. V. I. They were mustered in at Toledo, Ohio, March 27, 1865, and were mustered out of the service at Columbus, July 7, 1865. With this regiment, he participated in the battle of Nashville, which was the last battle of the 182d Infantry. Mr. Brooker's father, Warren Brooker, was born in Connecticut, in the year 1800, and married Miss Mary Ann Keys, April 24, 1825. She was born in Middletown, Conn., in 1807, and is now living in Wauseon, Fulton Co., Ohio. Mr. Warren Brooker died Nov. 21, 1875. Their children are—William H., born Feb. 9, 1826; Mary A., Aug. 24, 1827 (now Mrs. Henry Kellogg); Frederick M., March 17, 1829, died March 12, 1880; Emeline E., born Nov. 12, 1830; Warren, Feb. 25, 1833; Lury J., Oct. 22, 1834 (now Mrs. William Nickson); Lucius E., Oct. 18, 1837; Nettie V., Nov. 30, 1841 (she married Mr. Walter Travis, and died March 18, 1864); Hiram R., Sept. 24, 1842; Merritt W., July, 1845, died Oct. 28, 1845; Alfred J., Sept. 4, 1846; Merritt W. second, April 30, 1848. There were four of these brothers in the army—William H., Warren, Lucius and Hiram; the last two were mustered out as Lieutenants; three veteranized and served throughout the war.

JAMES HARVEY CARPENTER, physician, Litchfield. James Harvey Carpenter, M. D., was born in Ontario Co., N. Y., Feb. 8, 1818, and taught school from his 15th year until 1839. He came to Ohio in 1838. Read



medicine with Dr. Tolman, of Litchfield, and attended lectures at Willoughby and Cleveland, beginning the practice of medicine in 1845. Previous to this time, he had been associated with Dr. Tolman in medical practice, and when the latter left Litchfield, he continued alone. In 1836, Dr. Carpenter was married to Miss Sarah Sperry, of Greece, Monroe Co., N. Y., who bore him several children; those still living are as follows: Elmira L. (wife of A. B. Curtis, of Cuyahoga Falls), was born in 1839, and married in 1867; Charles N. Carpenter, of Litchfield, was born in 1842; Josephine H. Carpenter was born in 1854 and resides at home. Mrs. Sarah Sperry Carpenter died in 1864, and in 1865, he married a sister of his first wife, who has borne him two children—Edna M., born in 1866, and Frank A., born in 1867, both of whom are living at home.

H. HARTWELL DOANE, physician, Litchfield. H. Hartwell Doane, M. D., was born in La Fayette, Medina Co., Ohio, Oct. 11, 1844. He attended school in Muskegon, Mich., until he began reading medicine with Dr. W. J. Sloan, of Muskegon, from whose office he went to attend lectures at the Chicago Eclectic Medical Institute; he graduated from that institution in 1866, and immediately began the practice of medicine with his former preceptor at Muskegon. He continued there three years, removing at the end of that time to Grand Rapids, where he remained about the same time. In 1872, Dr. Doane removed from Grand Rapids to Litchfield, Ohio, and has since resided here in the successful practice of his profession. In 1874, he was married to Miss Mary A. Caswell, of Litchfield, who has borne him one child—Bertha M., now 5 years of age. During his medical practice, Dr. Doane has been very successful in the use of electricity as a remedy for various diseases, and has provided himself with the latest and best instruments for its appliance. One unfortunate circumstance attending his practice in Litchfield was the burning of his dwelling and office, in 1879, by which he lost his books, instruments and medicines. In other respects he has been extraordinarily successful in his professional practice.

MOSES HALLADEY, farmer; P. O. Litch-

field. Is of the old New England stock, and was born in Hampden Co., Mass., March 16, 1810. He was married to Miss Emily Allen, who was born in the same county and State, Sept. 16, 1813. Their children were William D., born April 9, 1833; Chester F., April 6, 1835, both born in Massachusetts; John Tyler, born here May 10, 1840; he enlisted in the three months' service, and after his discharge was drafted, but on account of business was obliged to hire a substitute to take his place. Henry C., born Aug. 4, 1843; Ethan A., March 10, 1845; Emily D., Sept. 10, 1850, died in Aug. 1853. Mr. Halladey bought the north part of his brother Solomon's farm, a lot of 30 acres, afterward buying 18 acres more. There was a log house upon the place, which they moved into, and then commenced to clear the place and reclaim it from the wilderness. His brother Solomon's farm at first consisted of 300 acres, but he sold a part of it. He was born Feb. 2, 1800, and died Sept. 1, 1878. He married Miss Dotia Chamberlain, born in Otsego Co., N. Y., in 1819. Moses Halladey's father was born in Connecticut, in 1753, but moved to Massachusetts in his younger days, and, taking up a tract of wild land, began the life of a pioneer. His wife, Mrs. Submitta (Wright) Halladey, was born in Connecticut in 1767, and died in 1826; he died in 1831. Their children were eight in number: James, Levi, Ruth, Solomon, Tallethy, Betsey, Moses and Delia. Moses Halladey came to this State and county in 1836, and ten years after, or in 1846, had the misfortune to have his house burned to the ground, losing in the fire all the records and books of the family. The only furniture saved was the family spinning-wheel and a few light articles. Ethan A., then one year of age, narrowly escaped, he was saved by one of the neighbors. Mrs. Halladey's mother, Rachel (Babcock) Allen (widow of Mr. Ransford Allen, of Westfield Farms Mass.) was born in Norwich, Conn., Feb. 16, 1778, and is, therefore, 103 years of age, and the oldest person living in that State. She is mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and great-great-grandmother of 105 lineal descendants, eighty-one of whom are still living in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Ohio, Wisconsin, Minnesota, South Carolina





and Georgia, and the eighty-one, with those connected by marriage, will give a present total of 125 who may be numbered in her family. Of the eighty-one, eight are children, thirty-eight grandchildren, twenty-nine great grandchildren, and six great-great-grandchildren. At 100 years, she was bright, active and intelligent, and the only sign of failing was evidenced by a dimness of vision, which prevented the recognition of the features of a person, except they addressed her, when she would know them by the voice.

ANSEL S. JENNE, farmer; P. O. Litchfield. Was born in Saratoga Co., N. Y., Sept. 25, 1808; was married to Narcissa Merrill, Sept. 27, 1830. He came to Ohio in 1836, and earned money by mowing grass to make a payment on 65 acres of land on the Smith Road, paying \$6 per acre. He had to endure all the hardships of pioneer life, and for many years had a hard struggle to keep the wolf from the door. At one time he conceived the idea of collecting the ashes left by the burning of logs and trees in clearing the land, and for many years carried on a good business in manufacturing "black salts" and pearl-ash, for which he found market at Elyria. At one time he started for that place in a wooden-wheeled cart, driving a pair of 4-year old steers, when he became mired, and only got out with the assistance of his faithful wife. On that occasion, he promised her that she should ride over that self-same road someday in future in a carriage of her own, and with as good a team as any one in the township, a prediction which he has since fulfilled. To Mr. and Mrs. Jenne were born ten children, five of whom are still living. The names of those who grew up are as follows: Allison was born in the State of New York, Jan. 29, 1832, and died in Maple Rapids, Mich., Oct. 6, 1872; Samantha M. was born in Litchfield, Ohio, June 6, 1837, and died Aug. 14, 1857; Mary J. was born June 21, 1847, and died Aug. 13, 1850; Margaret A., wife of Philander Starr, of Litchfield, was born Oct. 1, 1830, married May 20, 1852; Fannie R., wife of Nelson Harris, of Lodi, was born March 13, 1835, married Feb. 22, 1855; Ann Eliza, wife of John Price, of Fulton, Mich., was born in Litchfield, April 22, 1840, married in 1873; James, of Fulton,

Mich., was born in Litchfield, Ohio, Oct. 25, 1845, married in 1866; Harvey was born in Litchfield, July 17, 1851, married Jan. 12, 1874. Mr. Jenne is, in the strictest sense of the word, a self-made man, and his success is due, under Providence, to his own exertions. He has been a member 'of the Methodist Episcopal Church since about his 25th year. His wife, who was born in 1810, has been a member of the same denomination since her eighteenth year. By hard work and strict integrity, this worthy pioneer couple have built up a name and fortune which are an honor to them and to their posterity. In the early days it was very common to see deer among the few cattle which were turned out to graze, and Mr. Jenne has frequently shot them by keeping along with the cattle, and using them as a decoy and screen at the same time, until he got in shooting distance. Wild hogs were also killed, but it was necessary to make sure work, or the hunter would have to run to "save his bacon," as the porkers were very ferocious when wounded. To dress the hogs was somewhat difficult, as few iron kettles were to be had. It was necessary to heat large stones in a log-heap and throw them into a wooden trough filled with water, thus bringing it to a boil. Such was life at that time in the community in which he has lived for so many years.

MRS. CLARA P. JUDSON, Litchfield. Mrs. Clara Pickett Judson was born in Colesville, Broome Co., N. Y., in 1812. She was married to Orville Nickerson in 1829; came to Ohio in 1831, and settled in Litchfield, Medina Co. Mrs. Nickerson bore her first husband several children, the names of those now living being given below: Jane A., wife of Francis Peck, of Litchfield Township, was born in New York State in 1831, and was married in 1849; Sarah E., wife of E. C. Minor, of Jonesville, Mich., was born in 1834, and was married about 1854; Cornelia C., wife of Edward Campbell, of Hillsdale, Mich., was born in 1838, and married about the year 1858; Benjamin F. Nickerson, of Greenwich, Huron Co., Ohio, was born in 1840; Orville Nickerson, of California, was born in 1840. Mr. Nickerson died in 1848. In 1850, the subject of this biography was married to Mr.



Nelson Judson, of Litchfield, and bore him one child—Mary L., wife of Frank P. Smith, of Michigan. Mrs. Judson is the only person now living in Litchfield Township who was here when the first church society (Congregational) was organized, and of which she was a member.

**JAMES LIFE**, general merchandise, Litchfield. This gentleman's ancestry is traced back to a prisoner in one of the wars in Denmark, who was exiled to the British Islands, and settled in Scotland. After several generations, the family moved to England, this time settling in Hull, Yorkshire, on the property known as the Cockgrove Farm. Mr. George Life, grandfather of the subject of this biography, married Miss Ann Swinglehurst, the last descendant of the generation of the Helms and Hays families. They had owned and occupied the ancient property known as St. Johns of Jerusalem, a freehold landed property, which descended to the Life family by the marriage as mentioned above, and which is still held by them. Mr. John Life, the father of our subject, was born in the northern part of Yorkshire, England, and came to this country in 1854, and settled in the township of Royalton, Cuyahoga Co., Ohio. He was born in 1805, and was, by occupation, a farmer and shoemaker. He was known and respected as an honest and industrious citizen, strictly moral and conscientious in all his intercourse with his fellow-men. He married Miss Mary Bramley, of Lancashire, England, who was born in 1803, and they were married in 1830. Their children were James, Mary Ann (now Mrs. Isaac Gifford, of Cuyahoga Co., Ohio), Swinglehurst and Richard. Mr. John Life died Nov. 10, 1879, in the triumph of a faith in Christ. Mr. James Life was born Feb. 15, 1829, in Bury, Lancashire, England, and married Miss Susan Barefoot, of Oxford. They were married at Preswiche, Lancashire, Aug. 29, 1854, and, for a wedding tour, the day after, set sail for the United States, and, after a safe sea voyage, settled in Royalton, Cuyahoga Co. Their children are William, born Sept. 12, 1855; Emily, born March 17, 1857; Henry, born June 1, 1859; Arthur Helm, June 10, 1861, and Celestia, born Aug. 20, 1865. Mr. Life, while in En-

gland, served as an attendant and nurse in the Preswiche Hospital under the celebrated Dr. Joseph Holland and Dr. Willson, of Paris. It was while there he became proficient in the use of drugs and in the care of the sick. This enabled him to render his adopted country good and efficient service during the war, as he went south in the fall of 1862, as a volunteer Hospital Steward under Drs. Harvey and Flack, of Illinois. The first service rendered was at the battle of Perryville, and here his experience in the English hospital was very valuable to this country, as there was a scarcity of educated help, and, night and day, he was busy dressing the wounded and caring for those in his charge. The battles of Lebanon and Murfreesboro followed, while the work of the hospital attendants was very severe and arduous. The soldiers whom he had relieved appreciated this, and in some of the newspapers published their thanks to Mr. Life for his kindness and devotion to the sick and wounded in his care. Mr. Life engaged in the drug business for some two years, and then went into the general merchandise business at Royalton, moving to Litchfield Aug. 1, 1880, where he now conducts the same business with the help of his sons. His thoughts and ideas of both religion and politics are of the liberal, progressive kind, and he has always lent a helping hand to the permanent reforms of the day, and toward such enterprises as help build up society and benefit the town in which he lives.

**MILES LEACH**, farmer; P. O. Litchfield; was born Oct. 16, 1809, in Litchfield, Conn., and was the fifth of a family of nine children. His father's name was Benoni Leach, whose ancestors came from Wales. Three of his grandfather's brothers served in the Revolutionary war. In his younger days, he helped his father in his occupations and worked very hard. After coming of age, he sold the clocks manufactured by North, in Connecticut, traveling principally in the State of Pennsylvania. He came into this State via Cleveland, and bought his present farm of one hundred acres, paying \$5 per acre for it. There were only two and a half acres of slashing done on the place, and he has improved it to its present high state of cultivation by great industry and





toil; his farm buildings are of the substantial sort, and no one has a better right to be proud of his achievements than Mr. Leach. He is independent in thought, so far as religious subjects are concerned, and believes truth should be taught in preference to creeds and dogmas. He was married in Litchfield, Ohio, in 1843, to Miss Martha E. Bradley, who was born in Suffield, Conn., July 8, 1817. Their children were William E., born April 2, 1844, who left the college in Oberlin, Ohio, and enlisted for one hundred days in the army, but, during what is known as Early's raid upon the capital, he was wounded, and died in front of Ft. Stevens, Washington, D. C., July 11, -13, 1864. Thus fell the eldest of the family, in his young manhood, for his devotion to the old flag. Harvey E., born Aug. 13, 1845; Byron B., born May 2, 1851, and died Nov. 4, 1851; Harvey E., who married Miss Matilda Kinney, who was born in La Fayette Township, this county, Jan. 8, 1850; they were married Sept. 26, 1871. Their children are Willis E., born July 24, 1874; Orra L., born June 29, 1876; Carrie E., born Aug. 10, 1879. He takes an active interest in the temperance question, and has held for two terms the position of President of the Temperance Christian Union Association of Litchfield Township.

EDWARD R. MCKENZIE, M. D., Litchfield. Edward R. McKenzie, M. D., was born in New Haven, Conn., Oct. 5, 1819. His father, Alexander McKenzie, was a woollen manufacturer, and removed from New Haven to Litchfield, Conn., when Edward was very young, whence he came to Ohio with his brother-in-law, Russell Brooker, when he was 13 years of age. He read medicine under Dr. L. E. Jones, of Cincinnati, and graduated from the Cincinnati Eclectic Medical College, in 1851, coming to Litchfield, Ohio, immediately upon finishing his medical course. He has since remained here in the successful practice of his profession. Dr. McKenzie's early educational advantages were not the best, and his success in life is due to his own exertions.

JAMES H. OLCOTT, farmer: P. O. Litchfield Center; was born in Litchfield, Conn., March 5, 1815. He came to Litchfield with the family of his father, Benoni, when he was 19 years of age. Together with a younger

brother, Mr. Olcott chopped down the trees and cleared the spot now covered by the Litchfield Hotel, and a portion of the park, about one square acre in area. After cutting, hewing and laying up the logs for his father's dwelling, he went through the mud for ten or twelve miles from the settlement, until he had collected sufficient lumber to finish the house. The roof was of what is known as "shake," no nails being used, but weight poles in their stead. With the exception of one small rocking-chair, which the family brought from their home in the Nutmeg State, the seating accommodations of the family consisted of benches split out of whitewood. The table and floor were of similar material. When the young folks went to an old-fashioned country hoe-down, it was necessary to stoop when passing under the low joist of the ceiling, or a bumped head was the consequence. Mr. Olcott danced in the first set ever on the floor of the old Litchfield Hotel, some forty-three years ago. On the 4th of January, 1838, Mr. Olcott was married to Miss Lovisa Snow, of Chatham, Medina Co., who bore him two children. Newton R. Olcott was born Aug. 24, 1841, and married Miss Kate S. Murphy, of Marshall, Tex., Oct. 6, 1874, and is now living in Houston, Tex. Adalaide D. Olcott was born Nov. 25, 1846, and is now living at home. Mr. Benoni Olcott donated the ground upon which the Congregational Church in Litchfield now stands, and subsequently assisted in building the edifice. He also gave one acre of ground to the Township Trustees, which was laid out for a place of interment for the dead, and is now used for that purpose. Also, one and a half acres of ground for the first steam saw-mill and grist-mill which was built in Litchfield; this he donated to David Hinman, now deceased.

A. C. STRANAHAN, farmer; P. O. Litchfield. Augustus C. Stranahan was born in Plainfield, Windham Co., Conn., Nov. 21, 1809; he came to Ohio in 1831, and remained in Columbia, Lorain Co., during the winter and summer of 1832, and then returned to Connecticut; remaining there through the winter of 1832-33, he again came to Ohio, and bought a farm of 55 acres near Columbia, in the spring of 1833, for which he paid \$3 per



acre. Jan. 1, 1834, he married Miss L. C. Rood, of Litchfield Township, Medina Co., Ohio. In 1842, he removed his family to Litchfield, and bought 80 acres of land, north of the village, where he lived until 1878, when he came to Litchfield, and has since resided there. Besides farming, Mr. Stranahan has worked at

the trade of a carpenter for some years, when not actively engaged in farming. His wife bore him two sons, both of whom are dead. Soon after his removal to Litchfield, Mr. Stranahan received a fall which dislocated his hip, and he has since been incapacitated for active labor.

### LIVERPOOL TOWNSHIP.

FREDERIC A. BAYER, Abbeyville, Ohio. Among the talented and prominent citizens of his township is Frederic A. Bayer, who was born in Westphalia, Prussia, in 1830. He attended the school of his native town, after which he learned the trade of tailor with his father. In this he proved an adept, completing his trade and becoming a journeyman when but 15 years of age, thus learning it in a remarkably short time. He embarked in life by going to Brussels, where he spent one year, at the end of which he went to Paris. This was in 1847, when the French Revolution raged in all its fury. During this time, he witnessed the sudden departure and escape of King Louis Philippe, of France, to England. He left Paris in 1848, returning home. Here he remained one month, when, in company with his parents, he emigrated to America, landing in New Orleans by sailing vessel, from which place he went to St. Louis, and remained there six years. He then went to New Orleans, but, the yellow fever being prevalent, he went North as far as Jacksonville, Ill. Here, by appointment, he met Barbara A. Walker, a native of Liverpool Township, to whom he was married in 1855. They remained in Jacksonville until 1859, when they returned to St. Louis, remaining there until 1875. During this time he was an eye witness to the battle of Camp Jackson, the first battle of the civil war. He came to Medina Co. Jan. 1, 1876, and has resided there since. On Nov. 13, 1880, they celebrated their silver wedding. The Gruninger, Renz, Eckert, Stoskopf, Hertneck, Gayer, Wagener, Spith, Beutel, and Walker families being present, they all being highly respected pioneer families of the township. A most glorious time was had. Mr. Bayer is a gentleman of refinement and culture, and, by his application of the "Golden

Rule," has the esteem and good will of all with whom he is acquainted. He is a Republican in politics, joining the party in 1856, when it was formed.

IRA BURKE, Copopa; residing in Columbia Township, Lorain Co.; is one of the oldest and first settlers in this region. Although never a resident of Medina Co., his younger days were passed in it. Many a hunt has he taken with Dan Mallet, who figures such a prominent part in the history of Liverpool and York Townships. It was he who carried the chain when the latter was being surveyed into lots. Many a turkey, bear, wolf and deer has fallen lifeless from the effects of his sure flint-lock rifle. He and Dan Mallet ate many wild turkeys that were roasted over their camp-fires. When the cannons on Lake Erie thundered, foretelling Perry's victory, he was one who heard them, and now survives to tell of their deadly peals. He was born in Euclid, Cuyahoga Co., Ohio, in 1803. His parents were "Yankees." He came to Columbia, just north of Liverpool, in 1809, and has resided there ever since. He was married in 1828 to Relief Adeline Fuller, a native of New York State. She was born in 1811. They have no children. He was at one time a member of the Methodist Church. Is a Republican in politics, and has served as Township Trustee.

JACOB BAUER, farmer; P. O. Liverpool; he was born in Liverpool Township in 1842, and attended the common school, beginning his early manhood by working on the farm. He is one of the model farmers of his county. He was married in 1861 to Christena Behner, a native of Liverpool Township, and has three children—Julia, Ida and Edward. He is a Republican in politics.

GILES B. DAVIS, farmer; P. O. Liverpool; was born in 1825 in Liverpool. His father,





Clarke Davis, was married to Mary Bates. They were both from Rhode Island. They came to Liverpool when "it was all woods," and here the subject of this sketch was born. He worked on his father's farm, and attended the district school of his township. He was married, in 1850, to Alethia Ames, a native of New York, her parents coming to Liverpool when she was but 4 years old. They have two children—Frank M. and Lillie I. The former had the good fortune to have a father who took an interest in his education. He was sent to Leipsic, Germany, where he developed and cultivated the musical talents with which he was born. He is at present one of the Faculty of Oberlin College, and has charge of the musical department of that institution. He is married to Annie McGraw. Mr. Davis is a Republican in politics, and was one of the first to vote that ticket in his Democratic township.

WILLIAM DUECKER, shoemaker, Liverpool; born in Saxony in 1846. He emigrated to America in 1867. Learned the trade of shoemaker in Medina, Ohio. Is at present a thriving and industrious business man of Liverpool. He was married, in 1870, to Miss Susanah B. Friedt, a native of Pennsylvania. He has five children—Noah, Mary, Luther F., Elizabeth, Christian J. C. They are both members of the Evangelical German Lutheran Church. He is a Republican in politics.

JOHN DYE, farmer; P. O. Liverpool; was born in New York in 1818. He went to Portage Co., Ohio, in 1830, and remained there five years, learning the trade of stone-potter, afterward coming to Medina Co. in 1835, and has been a resident ever since. He was married, in 1840, to Sarah Kibbe, a native of New York State, and has three children—Edith E., Lloyd and Olive. He is one of the most industrious farmers of his township, and takes pride in raising fine hogs and cattle. He has held the office of Constable, Supervisor, Trustee and Assessor a number of times. He is a Democrat in politics.

SAMUEL DOLLAMORE, farmer; P. O. Liverpool; was born in England in 1826. He emigrated to this country in 1841, and settled in Lorain Co., Ohio, living there until 1850, when he removed to Medina Co. He was married, in 1851, to Mary Marsh, a native of Liverpool Township. They have two sons, both of whom are married—David and Franklin. He

has by his industry and economy amassed some wealth and property, and ranks as a very popular farmer of his township. He is a member of the Methodist Church, and is a Republican in politics.

DAVID DOLLAMORE, farmer; P. O. Liverpool; was born in Liverpool Township in 1854; the son of Samuel Dollamore. He was married to Emma Betsieover, who has born him one son—George. Mr. Dollamore is one of the prosperous young farmers of his township. Is a member of the Methodist Church, and a Democrat in politics.

JOHN EUGA, farmer; P. O. Liverpool; was born in Liverpool Township in 1842. He attended the common school, and learned the trade of carpenter and joiner. He labored in Michigan, Indiana, and Geauga Co., Ohio, at different periods, up to 1878. He was married in 1864, to Mary McWilliams, and, she dying, he was remarried in 1869, to Rhoda Reed. He has three children—Russell, Burt and Clara. He has been Township Trustee three terms, and is a Democrat in politics.

DANIEL FORD, farmer; P. O. Abbeyville; was born in Grafton Co., N. H., in 1796. He removed into the State of Maine in 1802, and in 1812 into Genesee Co., N. Y., and obtained his education in the common schools of New York State. In 1817, his parents came into Medina Co., settling in Liverpool. He went to Marietta, Ohio, and remained there until 1821, when he also came to Liverpool. He began to farm, at the same time manufacturing wooden bowls and repairing watches and clocks. He was married in 1825 to Joanna Golden, a native of New York. Five children were born to them, two of whom are dead. Those living are William Fayette, Vienna and Clarinda. He has been elected Justice of the Peace on several occasions, and has also been Notary Public for twenty-five years. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and is a staunch Republican.

MICHAEL GRUNINGER, farmer; P. O. Abbeyville. Among the oldest settlers of the county is the subject of this sketch. He was born in Wurtemberg in 1817; attended the schools of his native country, and learned the trade of carpenter and joiner. He came to America in 1837, and settled in Liverpool Township, working in Cleveland at his trade for a period of three years, his place of resi-



dence being in Liverpool Township. He was married in 1838 to Frederica Kaufman, a native of Wurtemberg. They had three children—Charles, Caroline and Louise. In 1843, death robbed him of his bosom companion, and he was remarried, in 1847, to Rosanna Renz, a native of Wurtemberg, she arriving in this country when 6 years of age. They have nine children—Andrew J., George F., Gustave W., Helen, Katherine R., Lydia M., Anna B., Julia F. and Eva S. He is a member of the German Lutheran Church, and has been Deacon for twenty-five years. He has carried on the business of undertaker, in connection with farming, for the last thirty years.

GREGOR HUTTINGER, farmer; P. O. Liverpool. He is an old settler of the township, and was born in Baden, Germany, in 1821. He attended school, and learned the trade of wagon-maker. Came to Medina Co. in 1842, and has been residing here ever since. He was married, in 1844, to Catharine Eharte, a native of Baden. They have eight children—Theresa, married to George Armbruster; Louise, to Charles Pfeil; Frank, to Mary Feist; Ambrose, to Theresa Vonderhart; Catharine, to John Hoeffler; Mary, to Jacob Hoeffler; Henry and Anna. He is a member of the Roman Catholic Church. He has been Township Trustee for eighteen years. He has, by industry and economy, amassed some property. He is a Democrat in politics.

ALBERT G. HEATH, farmer; P. O. Liverpool; was born in 1816, in Massachusetts. He came to Medina Co. in 1824, and was married, in 1845, to Maria Green, a native of Vermont. They have four children—Giles, Sarah, Albert and Alvin. He is a very industrious farmer, and has been Clerk of the School Board several terms. He is a Democrat in politics.

ROBERT LOOMIS, farmer; P. O. Liverpool; was born in Berkshire Co., Mass., in 1797; the son of Loren Loomis. He attended the common school, and, when sixteen years of age, enlisted in the army, and was a participant in the war of 1812. He served under Gen. Brown and enlisted under Captain Ingersoll. After the war closed, he returned to Massachusetts and remained there several years, coming to Medina Co., in 1825, when the land was yet unsettled. He located on the banks of a creek, and has lived there ever since. He was married in 1817, to Ruth Davis, a native of Massachu-

setts. Their children are—Melvin, Truman, Robert and Phebe. His wife died in 1870. He is one of the few old settlers who can relate of the times when deer, bears and wolves reigned in the thick forests of the county. He is a member of the Free-Will Baptist Church, and has served as Township Trustee several terms. He is a sturdy old veteran Democrat, having always voted that ticket.

CHARLES J. MESSMER, lawyer; Liverpool; was born in Bavaria in 1839. His parents emigrated to America in 1841, settling in Liverpool, where he has spent the major part of his life. He attended the common school, and, by industry, obtained an education, thus enabling him to teach, which he did very successfully for a number of years. He studied law and was under the instruction of Judge Walker, of Medina, Ohio, and was admitted to the bar in 1872. He was married, in 1877, to Mary Bay, a native of Liverpool. They have one son—George F. He has held the offices of Township Clerk and Assessor, for five years and three years, respectively, being at present serving the second term as Justice of the Peace. He has, by his honesty and fidelity, won the esteem and confidence of his fellow-citizens, which he richly deserves.

CHARLES M. METZGER, farmer; P. O. Liverpool; is one of the most prominent farmers of Liverpool. His parents are natives of Germany. He was born in Liverpool Township in 1844. He was raised on a farm and at present is following that occupation. He was married in 1868, to Sophia E. Seffner, a native of Summit Co., Ohio. They have one child, Charles Edward. He has been Township Trustee for several terms, has served as Justice of the Peace and also Land Appraiser. He is one of the influential and enterprising farmers of his township, and is very popular throughout the county, as was demonstrated when he was a candidate for County Auditor, he running ahead of his ticket, his party being in a minority. He occupies the position of Director of the Farmer's Life Insurance Company, and is a member of the German Lutheran Church.

JOHN MARSH, farmer; P. O. Liverpool; was born in Bennington Co., Vt., in 1804. He is one of the pioneers of the township; coming into it as early as 1819, and has made it his residence ever since. He learned the trade of cooper with his father, and was





married in 1824, to Hepzibah Brainard, a native of Connecticut. They had four children—Mary, Franklin, Elezar and Elmer. His wife died in 1844. He was remarried in 1853, to Sallie E. Webster, a native of Massachusetts, by whom he had one son—Irvin J. He has been Constable and Trustee of his township several terms; has been Justice of the Peace for fifteen years, and is a Democrat. All his children are married. He is, at present, living a retired life, and has the reputation of being an upright citizen and a good neighbor.

**WILLIAM H. NEWTON**, farmer; P. O. Brunswick. Hollis Newton, the father of the subject of this sketch, was born in Southboro, Worcester Co., Mass., in 1798. At 8 years of age, he went with his parents to Onondaga Co., N. Y.; after living there eight years, he moved to Cayuga Co., N. Y.; at the end of two years, they moved to Canandaigua, N. Y. He was married to Debbie F. Beebe in 1824; he set out for Ohio in 1824, loading his household goods and wife in a lumber wagon, drawn by two yoke of oxen. He arrived at Abram Beebe's, in Liverpool Township, Sept. 17, 1824, making the journey in eighteen days. He purchased land of Daniel L. Coit, one mile south of the northeast corner of Liverpool Township. Here he settled and lived in habits of industry, temperance and religion, raising a family of nine children, of whom William H. Newton, the subject of this sketch, was one. He was born in Liverpool Township in 1838, and was married in 1861 to Mary E. Thomas, a native of Stark Co., Ohio. They have two children—Charles H. and Addie C. He is a devout member of the Free-Will Baptist Church.

**CHARLES H. PARKER**; P. O. Liverpool; was born in Liverpool in 1836, and spent his youth in working on the farm and attending school. He was married in 1861 to Lucinda Lewis, a native of Lorain Co., Ohio. They have two children—Edna and Arthur, who are possessed of rare and wonderful musical talent. Mr. Parker is selling sewing machines, and is a leading business man of his community. He is a Republican in politics.

**DWIGHT A. PARMELEE**, Liverpool; was born in Liverpool in 1852. He attended the common school of his native village, and, after going through the regular course there, attended Oberlin College. He was married in 1876, to Ella M. Jordan, and has one daughter,

Pearl. He is one of the prominent young men of Liverpool.

**A. S. PARMELEE**, miller, Liverpool; was born in Madison Co., N. Y., in 1808; attended common school and learned the trade of carpenter and joiner. He came to Medina Co. in 1834, and built a saw and grist mill, and has been in the business ever since. He was married, in 1840, to Clarinda Wilmot, a native of Liverpool. This marriage brought forth two children—Ashel D. and Charles E. His wife died in 1844; he was remarried, in 1845, to Fannie W. Bates, a native of Ashtabula Co., Ohio, and is the father of four children from this marriage—Susan C., William E., James S. and Dwight A. Mr. Parmelee's parents were of Massachusetts, and he may be properly termed a "Yankee." He is, at present, running a woolen-factory and grist mill, and is doing a flourishing business. He is the pioneer miller of the township, and his acquaintance is very extensive. He is a Republican in politics.

**WILLIAM W. PURDY**, farmer, Liverpool; was born in Westchester Co., N. Y., in 1813; he attended the common school and learned the trade of shoemaker, and came to Medina Co. in 1846, and has lived here ever since. He was married, in 1833, to Olivia Dean, a native of Westchester Co., N. Y., her ancestors being the Deans who took such a prominent part in the Revolutionary war. They have seven children—Louise M., Hannah L., Thomas D., Zachary T., Sarah O., Joseph V. R. and William W. Mr. Purdy has been Supervisor and Trustee for a number of terms; he is at present living on the farm he cleared, on which are white sulphur springs; his home occupies one of the finest sites in the county, which he has made pleasant and comfortable by hard labor and industry. He boasts of being an old-time Democrat, and remains one to this day.

**WILLIAM E. PARMELEE**, Justice of the Peace, Liverpool; was born in Liverpool in 1848, and attended the common school of that village. He was married in 1871, to Melissa E. Noble, a native of La Grange, Lorain Co., Ohio; they have two children, a daughter named Ella, and an infant. Mr. Parmelee was Postmaster of his village for five years, and, though he is a Republican in politics, was elected Justice of the Peace, which is all the more an honor, inasmuch as Liverpool is a strongly Democratic township; he is a young



man and bears a good name and reputation wherever he is known; he is an energetic, industrious citizen, and has a large circle of friends and acquaintances, by whom he is highly esteemed; his wife is a member of the Methodist Church.

L. B. PARKER, M. D.; Liverpool. Of those members of the medical profession of whose history dates back to pioneer days, the name of Dr. L. B. Parker, whose portrait is found in this work, stands among the most prominent. He is the son of Elijah and Mehetabel (Barber) Parker; the former was a descendant from one of three brothers who emigrated from England in an early day and settled near Boston, Mass.; but little of the surroundings of the early life of Elijah Parker are known. At the age of 16, however, we find him a soldier in the Revolutionary army, where he remained six years, fighting for his country's freedom. He subsequently moved to what is now Naples, Ontario Co., N. Y., where he married Miss Mehetabel Barber. He remained a resident of that place until his death, which occurred in 1813. This sad event left Mrs. Parker with a family of eight children, of whom the Doctor was the seventh, and at that time only 3 years old. Mrs. Parker was a lady of more than ordinary energy, and, through her tireless exertions, the family was kept together and such advantages given them as her limited means would allow, and, as the Doctor says, "Thanks to her teaching, I cannot remember the time when I could not read well." Books were scarce in those days, and, though the Doctor was possessed of an ardent desire to attain an education, the advantages for his doing so were very limited. He read all books that he could procure, and among them the Bible, and the latter so thoroughly as to ever after be thoroughly familiar with Scripture. During his early life he was assisted greatly in gaining an education by the kindness of a Presbyterian clergyman, through whose assistance he gained quite a knowledge of mathematics, the sciences and Latin. At the age of 16 years he practiced surveying. Though the Doctor desired very much to take a collegiate course, he had not the means to enable him to do so. About this time the Presbyterian Church of Naples offered to send him to college, with a view of preparing him for the ministry; an ardent desire to attain an education added to this

tempting offer; but, feeling that he could not subscribe to their creed, he was not so dishonorable as to accept their bounty and afterward disappoint them by selecting some other profession; he therefore, at 16 years of age, began the study of medicine, under the direction of a graduate of Yale College. After three years spent in study, he attended lectures at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of New York. Soon after this, he attended another term of lectures at the Geneva Medical College, where the degree of M. D. was conferred upon him. In 1833, he came to Ohio, and, finding an opening at Liverpool, Medina Co., he located there, and at once began the practice of medicine. Since that time he has devoted his time and attention almost wholly to his profession. The result of his life labor is a competency, and now, in his old age, he is reaping the reward of his early industry and economy. He has been possessed of strong physical powers, and even now, at 71 years of age, he is still engaged in the practice. Dr. Parker was married, in 1834, to Miss Maria Hastings, of Pembroke, Genesee Co., N. Y., who died in 1864. In 1867, he was married to Mrs. Lavina Wait, with whom he now lives. Ten children have been born to him, five only of whom are now living.

ALFORD RICHMOND, farmer; P. O. Liverpool. Among the old settlers and natives, is the subject of this sketch. His parents were natives of New York. He was born in Columbia, Lorain Co., Ohio, in 1821. He is the oldest of ten children—seven sons and three daughters. His young days were spent on a farm, and he obtained his education in the district school. He was married, in 1843, to Abigail Hance, who was born in New York in 1819. Her father, Jeremiah Hance, served in the war of 1812. They have three sons—Byron, Harris and Harrow. He has been Township Trustee for seven years; served as Justice of the Peace for a period of nine years, and is a Democrat in politics. He is one of the sturdy citizens and pioneers of the township. He took an active part in clearing the land, and is one of the oldest and most highly respected citizens of his township.

HIRAM RICHMOND, farmer; P. O. Liverpool. Hiram W. Richmond, a native of New York State, was born in 1800, and was married, in 1820, to Betsey Martin. They came to Medina Co. in 1819. Seven children were born to





them, of whom Hiram Richmond, the subject of this sketch, was one. He was born in Liverpool Township in 1827, and was raised on the farm, and has been engaged in that occupation ever since. He was married, in 1855, to Diantha Olin, a native of New York State. They have one son—Hiram W. He has been Township Trustee and Assessor several terms. At present, he is farming, and has charge of a cheese-factory, in which he is a partner. He is a quiet, unassuming and energetic citizen, and enjoys an enviable reputation as one of the foremost citizens of his township.

GUY E. RING, farmer; P. O. Liverpool. The subject of this sketch was born in New Hampshire, in 1815. He came into Medina Co. in 1833, and learned the trade of millwright. He was married in 1842, to Rebecca Fuller, a native of New York State. They have ten children—Mary, Martha, Alethia, Anna, Nellie, Jane, Elmer, Ira, Josephine, Leslie. One of their sons (Jonathan) died in the civil war. Mr. Ring is a Republican in politics.

DUDLEY P. STRANAHAN, farmer; P. O. Brunswick; was born in Windham Co., Conn., in 1823. His parents went to Cleveland in 1830, remaining there one year, after which they went to Columbia and remained there until 1860. He learned the trade of carpenter and joiner with his father. He came to Liverpool and cultivated the farm, and carried on a lumbering and saw-mill business. He was married, in 1846, to Cornelia Tillotson, a native of Massachusetts. They have four children—Rolla, Helen, Miles and John. He is a member of the Disciples' Church; is also a member of the I. O. O. F., and is a Republican "every time."

MRS. J. L. SPOONER, Liverpool. The subject of this sketch is a daughter of Ebenezer Wilmot, an old settler of Liverpool Township. She was born in Liverpool Township in 1826. Her parents were among the first families, her father having been a soldier in the war of 1812. She was married, in 1844, to Miles S. Spooner, a native of Liverpool. They have four children—Martha C., Joseph W., Elisha and Hattie. She is a member of the Methodist Church.

JOHN G. SCHOETTLE, Pastor, Liverpool; was born in Wurtemberg, Germany. He obtained his education in the Rhein Mission Seminary of Germany. He is a graduate of this popular institution, and immediately after grad-

uation was installed as a minister of the Gospel. He emigrated to America in 1864, and has had charges in Wisconsin, Indiana and Kentucky, at different periods, for sixteen years. He came to Liverpool in 1877. He was married, in 1865, to Julia Lautenschlaeger, a native of Wurtemberg, and has three children—Julia, Paul and Amanda. Mr. Schoettle has a large German congregation of the Evangelical denomination, some of its members being the best and most influential citizens of the township. There have been about ten additions to the church since his services began here.

LOUIS WEBER, farmer; P. O. Liverpool; is the son of George Weber, who married Mary Ann Eichert. The subject of this sketch was born in Alsace in 1830. His parents settled in Liverpool in 1834, when he was but 4 years old. He spent the greater part of his life on the farm, where he now resides, and was married, in 1855, to Margaret Flannigan, a native of Ireland, she being the daughter of John and Odelia (Graham) Flannigan, who came to this country in 1842. They have six children now living—George, Louise, Joseph, Cecilia, Caroline and Rosa. Two of their children are dead; Louise, who died in 1858, and John, who died in 1876. He is a member of the Roman Catholic Church, of which he has been director for a number of years.

HELI M. WARNER, retired farmer; P. O. Liverpool; was born in Liverpool in 1816. His parents were from Connecticut, and were some of the oldest settlers of the county. He attended the common schools, and began farming in 1828. He was married in 1841 to Rebecca Cosset, a native of Liverpool, and has two children—John J. and Charles Henry. He is at present living a retired life, and it is said that he is one of the first children who were born in Liverpool Township. He is a Republican in politics.

MELETIAH WARNER, retired, Brunswick, Ohio. Meletiah Warner is the widow of the late Lucius Warner, deceased. He was born in Waterbury, Conn., in 1805, and came to Medina Co. in 1815. He was married, in 1828, to Miss Millie Tillotson, a native of Berkshire Co., Mass. They have one daughter (Mary) living, and two other children are now dead. The surviving daughter is married to Mr. A. C. Armstrong, the purchasing agent of the L. S. & M. S. Railroad, and is now located at



Cleveland. Mr. and Mrs. Warner were two of the oldest settlers in the county, and their settlement is narrated in another part of this work. Mr. Warner died in 1875. He was a man of pure, noble character, and had the esteem of his fellow-citizens. He is spoken of as one of the great and noble men of his township. Mrs. Warner is now familiarly known as "Aunt Millie," and is a type of pioneer industry.

ELIADA WARNER, retired farmer; P. O. Liverpool; was born in Waterbury, Conn., in 1798. He attended the common schools of his native place, and, in 1818, came to Medina Co., and has been farming ever since. He was married in 1820, by the Rev. Alpheus Geer, to Margaret A. Nichols, a native of Waterbury, Conn., and has one son, Leonard, who is at present farming. Mr. Warner has filled the offices of Assessor and Land Appraiser on several occasions. He and his wife have been devout members of the Methodist Church since

1822, and were the first members of the first church. He is a Republican in politics.

JOSEPH W. WARNER, farmer; P. O. Brunswick; was born in Liverpool Township in 1818. He is the son of William Warner, who came into Medina Co. in 1815. He obtained his education in the district school of his township, and worked on his father's farm from his boyhood, and is now one of the most esteemed citizens of his township. He was married, in 1840, to Emily a Mathewson, a native of Connecticut. They have five children—Lucius W., Ellen H., Olive A., Philip L. and Joseph F. He is a member of the Methodist Church, a Republican in politics, and was elected Township Trustee, his township being overwhelmingly Democratic—an evidence of the popularity and good character of Mr. Warner. He is known throughout his whole township as an honest, industrious and upright citizen, well worthy the esteem and confidence of his fellow-citizens.

### SPENCER TOWNSHIP.

ISAAC BETZ, farmer; P. O. Spencer; he was born May 17, 1818, in Lewistown, Mifflin Co., Penn., and came to this State with his father in the spring of 1820. They settled in Chipewah Township, Wayne Co., Ohio. His father, John Betz, was born in Berks Co., Penn., on Feb. 28, 1773, and died in Norton Township, Summit Co., in 1852, at the advanced age of 79 years. His mother, Catharine (Troxell) Betz, was born in Pennsylvania May 24, 1778, dying in 1862, at the age of 84, in the same locality where her husband departed this life. Father Betz was a prominent man in his day, and was for years the choir leader, organist and school-teacher in his native town, and, when following the custom of the fatherland, the teacher was furnished a dwelling, and was a personage looked up to and advised with as were the ministers of the Gospel in the early days of the New England colonies. They had eleven children—Sarah, born Jan. 28, 1795; Catharine, Dec. 25, 1796; Abraham, Jan. 17, 1800; he died Dec. 26, 1878; George, Oct. 26, 1803; Daniel, February, 1806; John, March 2, 1808, and died Feb. 1, 1863; Samuel, October, 1810;

William, Sept. 12, 1813; Rebecca, Nov. 30, 1815; Isaac and Jacob (twins), May 17, 1818. We will now continue the family history by taking up the record of Isaac's family. He married Miss Mary Hartman, Oct. 14, 1831. She was born June 11, 1815, in Lohill Township, Northampton Co., Penn., and their children's names are as follows: Jonas W., born Dec. 7, 1832; Rebecca, Nov. 25, 1841; she died Aug. 12, 1844; Sarah K., now Mrs. J. W. Mantz, Feb. 12, 1843; John H., March 1, 1847; Mary A., Jan. 28, 1849, and died Feb. 20, 1867; Isaac J., Dec. 21, 1851. Mr. Betz moved to this county from Wayne, March 14, 1843, and settled in Spencer Township, on a tract of land bought two years previously. There was but little, if anything, done toward making a farm. The giant forest stood before him as if it would dispute the farther advance of the hardy pioneer. It must disappear before any crops could be raised; but he attacked it with a determined will to subdue it for his use, and level to the earth everything that stood in his way. How well he has succeeded, let the farm of over 200 acres, and the buildings thereon, tell the story;





they will speak for themselves. He has a comfortable home, in which to pass his declining years, as a recompense for past toil and privations, such as is but little understood by the dwellers on prairie lands, or the youth of to-day. The family used to attend the Methodist Church at River Corners. Rev. Abel Wood, Pastor, in the early days, when they had but one building for church and school purposes. Mr. Betz relates an incident of the early days, in the settlement of Wayne Co., that illustrates the newness of the country, and the advancement made in his day. One time, his twin brother and himself, when they were mere children, strolled out a little way from the house, and found a large, buck deer lying down; hurrying back, they asked their mother to come quick and see "the little cow with the big horns," giving their own name, as children sometimes will, for what they had seen.

MRS. S. A. BEMENT *nee* Miss Sally A. Rainer, Penfield; was born in Genesee Co., N. Y., April 9, 1817. Her husband, Edmund C. Bement (deceased), was born in Lowville, N. Y., Sept. 25, 1813, and they were married Dec. 25, 1833. His last sickness, of but very few days, terminated in death July 15, 1875. They came to this State in the year 1837, and settled in La Grange, Lorain Co., where they remained until 1862, when they moved to Spencer Township, Medina Co., Ohio. The children were twelve in number—Edwin R., born March 2, 1834; Edmund D., March 22, 1835; Julia F., June 2, 1836; William H., May 3, 1838; Emily J., Nov. 5, 1839; Lydia L., April 2, 1841; George A., Aug. 14, 1843; Sarah A., March 28, 1846; Hiram N., May 20, 1848; Amanda M., Aug. 20, 1850; Ellen M., July 15, 1853 (she died July 31, 1854); Charles S., now living with his mother on the homestead, was born July 3, 1856. Four members of the family were in the army during the rebellion, their patriotism being shown by devotion to the Union, and two of them laying down their young lives on the altar of a beloved country, a bloody sacrifice, that we and all the coming generations might live where the blessings of a free government abound. Commencing with the eldest, Edwin R. enlisted in Battery E, 1st Ohio Light Artillery, on the 25th day of August, 1864, at Wooster, Ohio, and was mustered out of the service at Camp Denison, July 12, 1865. He was in the battle of

Nashville and Hood's raid. William H. enlisted in the 11th N. Y. V. I., and was instantly killed by the enemy's sharpshooters at Hatcher's Run, Va., by a shot through the head, April 2, 1865. George A. enlisted in Capt. A. H. Nickerson's Co. I, of the 8th O. V. I., and, after participating in a number of battles, died on July 11, 1864, in Emory Hospital, Washington, D. C. from the effects of a gun-shot wound received in one of the battles around Petersburg, Va. The writer regrets that fuller information could not be readily obtained of the list of battles in which these brothers participated. George A. was promoted twice to non-commissioned officer for special bravery on the field of battle, and is highly spoken of by his commanding officer.

JOEL CURTICE, farmer; P. O. Spencer. He owns New York as the land of his nativity, having been born in Cayuga Co., Jan. 20, 1804. In his younger days he worked on the Erie Canal, and learned the trade of molder in Rochester, N. Y., working there some fifteen years. He came to this State in May, 1833, and settled in La Grange, Lorain Co., taking a contract for 166 acres, and giving \$400 for it. He then worked at his trade in the foundry at Elyria, and made some improvements upon the land by building a log cabin upon the lot and clearing some of it. He afterward wrought at his trade for two years more, then went on his farm again and cleared fifty acres, having the land all paid for in four years from the time he bought it. In April, 1843, he traded his farm there for one in this township, and moved here, cleared 105 acres, with some help. Later on, he bought 54 more acres, making a good-sized farm of 159 acres. His father, Hosea, was born in Deerfield, Mass., in 1773, and his mother in the same State about 1775. Her maiden name was Catharine Moore. Their children's names were Philena, Worthy, Amos, Hosea, Joel, Reuben, Harlow (died when a child), Alonzo, David, Susannah, Solomon and Catharine. His father died Feb. 5, 1864, in La Grange, Ohio, and his mother in the spring of 1850. Mr. Curtice was married June 6, 1826, in the town of Summerhill, Cayuga Co., N. Y., to Miss Emma Freeman, who was born in Otsego Co., N. Y., March 12, 1801. They had the following children: Clarissa A., born April 1, 1827; Harold, June 26, 1829; Joshua E., Nov. 11, 1831; Joel N., Oct. 6, 1834; Emma



C., Dec. 8, 1837; Laurinda E., June 24, 1840; William, May 23, 1843 (he died June 9, 1843; David A., April 22, 1845; Reuben E., March 24, 1849; Hiram A., Dec. 25, 1852. The great great-grandfather of Hosea Curtice was born in England, four brothers coming over to settle in the New World. There was a grand family re-union and golden wedding held here four years ago, on June 6, 1876; 105 relatives and friends of Mr. and Mrs. Curtice assembled to do honor to the event, coming from Wisconsin, Michigan and Ohio, marking a day long to be remembered by those who participated in the festivities. There were music and singing, short and appropriate speeches were made by Rev. Cyrus Inman, Dr. Willey, Messrs. Smith and Cornell; and Joshua E., one of the sons of the aged pair, alluded in feeling terms to the advice his father gave him when he went out into the wide world for himself—to always be honest, and never, by word or deed, disgrace the family name. Mr. and Mrs. Curtice might be justly called typical pioneers, and, for persons at their time of life, still enjoy good health and buoyant spirits, acquired by active lives, temperance and frugality.

EPHRAIM COOLMAN, farmer; P. O. Spencer; was born in this township Feb. 5, 1849, and was married, April 20, 1873, to Miss Julia M. Dickinson, who was born Nov. 13, 1852; they have two children—Alice B., born Aug. 14, 1875, and Emma K., Sept. 5, 1876. Mr. Coolman owns the farm where he was born, and where his father first settled in this township, of 126 acres; it formerly consisted of 136 acres, but a small part of it has been sold. Upon this homestead his father toiled for many a weary day, clearing the land that was to be his home and the home of his children; showing all of the enterprise and firmness that used to characterize the early settlers of this county, and persevered until victory crowned his efforts and a fine farm well rewarded him for all the toil and privations he was obliged to undergo during those early days. He bought the first mowing-machine (Ball's) in the neighborhood, and left his son his father's fire-lock, a relic of bygone days; also the family clock, of Connecticut make, still running and marking the time of day as it did forty years ago. Mr. Coolman had a brother named John, who enlisted in the 2d O. V. C., Co. B, Capt. Lindsley, and died in the

service at Ft. Leavenworth Feb. 20, 1862. Joseph Coolman, the father of the subject of this sketch, was born in Stark Co., Ohio, July 16, 1814, and died Oct. 14, 1875, in Spencer Township. He married, June 1, 1837, Miss Sarah Lance, born July 19, 1819, in Milton Township, Wayne Co., Ohio; their children were Mary, born June 8, 1838, died Aug. 28, 1878; Clara, born May 7, 1840, died Aug. 2, 1841; John, born Sept. 19, 1841, died in the service Feb. 20, 1862; Charity, born Oct. 24, 1843, now Mrs. Calvin Kryder; Harriet, Aug. 20, 1845, died March 31, 1846; William, born Jan. 29, 1847; Ephraim, Feb. 5, 1849; Milton W., May 18, 1851, died Oct. 15, 1877; Frances M., born April 7, 1853, now Mrs. F. Cornelius; Edward F., Aug. 22, 1855, died Feb. 13, 1874; Joseph A., born Sept. 24, 1858, died Jan. 16, 1862; Orville B., born June 19, 1864, and Sarah A., April 27, 1866. Mrs. Joseph Coolman is living at Spencer Center with the younger members of her family in a quiet retirement. Her husband came to this county in 1838, making it some forty-two years since they became identified with the history of Spencer Township.

JAMES B. DICKINSON, farmer; P. O. Spencer. The subject of this sketch has led a somewhat checkered life until within the past few years, but has managed to hold his own against all assailants, until now his life passes on the even tenor of its way. He was born in Wayne Co., N. Y., Nov. 8, 1832. His father, John Dickinson, was born in Macedon, Wayne Co., N. Y., June 3, 1807, and came to this State in the spring of 1851, settling in Spencer Township. He died June 1, 1880. The mother was born in one of the New England States, the date not obtainable, and died in 1834; her maiden name was Catharine Bradford. The children by this first marriage were James B. and an infant sister who died when a child six months old. His father married again, in 1834, a Miss Catharine Foote, who was born in Marion Township, Wayne Co., N. Y., July 6, 1815. They had the following children: Merritt (dead), William N., Mary, David L. (born July 24, 1845, died in the service), Staley H., and Julia M. (now Mrs. E. Coolman). James has a good record as a soldier among his old comrades of the 8th. He enlisted April 19, 1861, under the first call of President Lincoln for troops for the three months' service,





in the 8th O. V. I., Co. K, Capt. W. M. Pierce. They re-enlisted for three years, or during the war, before their first term expired, at Camp Dennison, near Cincinnati. While in camp the only incident that transpired worthy of note, except the usual routine of dress parades, camp and guard duty, was his attempt to swim the river and back again, in which he came near being drowned, but was rescued by a comrade named William Bacon, now of Medina. The first battle in which he participated was that of Kernstown, Va. They were under the command of the heroic veteran Gen. Shields, who drove "Stonewall" Jackson, after the battle was decided in our favor, up the famous Shenandoah Valley, in an almost continuous skirmish for many miles. Col. Ashby, of the Black Horse Confederate Cavalry, covered the retreat of the rebels. A good shot was made by him at an officer said to be Ashby, who was mounted and at a distance of half a mile from our advancing line. Having received permission from his Captain to try a shot at that distance, he threw the sights of his Enfield rifle to 900 yards and fired. The bullet, sent true to its aim, struck the bullet-proof breast-plate of the officer and nearly carried him off his horse, the impact being heard plainly at that distance. His Colonel, coming up soon after, commended the good marksmanship displayed. The next action of any importance was that of Romney, W. Va., where they drove the enemy out of town, followed by the fight at Blue Gap. They went into winter quarters at Romney, performing picket and guard duties; while here he was taken sick and transferred to the convalescent camp at Alexandria; upon his recovery, he rejoined his command and taking transports were moved to the Peninsula under Gen. McClellan. They were generally held as a reserve force in the battles of that period. He was also in the battles of Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville and Blooming Forge. Again they faced the enemy at Mine Run, with Gen. Meade as commander, and in the many skirmishes along the Rappahannock. In the last battle (that of Gettysburg), he was wounded three times; first, in the early part of that great battle by a small piece of shell which wounded his fore-finger, but did not disable him; then by another fragment of shell, which struck him on the right leg; soon after a bullet pierced his right arm just above the elbow, shattered the bone, and

he was obliged to retire from the fight. He was sent to the corps hospital, and transferred to Pittsburgh, then to Philadelphia and lastly to Newark, N. J., and put into the Invalid Corps, afterward sent to New York, where the duty consisted in guarding the deserters and prisoners of war. He was mustered out of service on the 29th of June, 1864. The month previous, May 21, he married Miss Harriett E. Gage, who was born in Rochester, N. Y., Nov. 28, 1843. Coming back to Ohio, soon after his discharge from the service, he went to Jones Co., Iowa; has been there and back several times in periods of five or six years at a time, but finally settled down permanently in this township in 1871. He has the reputation of being a fearless soldier and faithful in the discharge of his duties as such, obeying every order with alacrity, unmindful of the dangers he might encounter.

SOLOMON F. DIMOCK, farmer; P. O. Spencer; was the son of a clergyman, and the sixth child of a family of twelve members. He was born in what was then known as the county of Montrose, Penn., Feb. 6, 1816, moving with his father's family to this county in 1834. He afterward settled in Spencer Township, where he now resides. He was married Nov. 7, 1839, to Miss Cynthia Warner, who was born April 16, 1821, in Genesee Co., N. Y. She was the daughter of William Warner, of Montville Township, and a sister of Dr. Henry Warner (deceased), whose biography will be found in the medical department of this work. Mr. Dimock, buying the land where he now lives with only fifteen or twenty acres of slashing that might be called improvements, has made a fine farm of 100 acres as a homestead, although owning, at times, other pieces of real estate. The present improvements, consisting of a substantial farmhouse, barns, etc., attest the energy and industry of its occupant. For many days has taken his ax and walked three miles to work for 50 cents per day, and board himself. The father of the above-named gentleman, Rev. S. Dimock, was a native of the Green Mountain State, and was born in Bennington, Sept. 22, 1780. He was married in 1804, to Miss Clarissa Phelps, of Pownel, Vt. She was born April 16, 1788. They moved, in 1813, to the State of Pennsylvania. He was licensed to preach the next year, and was ordained as a clergyman of the Methodist Epis-



copal Church, in 1818. They again moved, this time to Allegany Co., N. Y., in 1828; and, after laboring in the Master's vineyard in different localities there, they came to Sharon, Medina Co., in the year 1834. Here he preached the Word, the Truth and the Life, until, worn out, his age and infirmities began to tell upon him, when he selected a home with his youngest daughter in Olmsted, Cuyahoga Co., Ohio, where he calmly gave up this life, spent in doing good to his fellowmen. He died Aug. 8, 1873, at the good old age of 93; his wife, Clarissa, died at the same place, April 18, 1877. Their children were Sally P., Theoda B., Horace N., William P., John P., Solomon F., Clarissa H., Sally P. (2d), Davis H., Laurenia G., Mary J. and Augusta M. William Davis Dimock, only child of the subject of this sketch, was born in Sharon, this county, Dec. 26, 1840, and was married July 4, 1864, to Miss Helen L. Holland. She was born in Huntington, Lorain Co., July 24, 1840. Her parents were Abram and Mary A. Holland, and were from the State of Massachusetts. They have one child, named Bertha A., born Aug. 9, 1873, and an adopted son, Hally F., born in Wooster, Wayne Co., Ohio, Feb. 16, 1864. His father, Henry D. Warner, is a cousin of Mr. Dimock. W. D. Dimock is one of the rising young farmers of this township, owning and managing a large farm, and is respected by the people of the community for his integrity and moral worth.

ALFRED D. DONARD, farmer; P. O. Spencer; is a well-to-do and prominent citizen of this township, and was born April 18, 1843, in Schuylkill Co., Penn. He came to this State Nov. 18, 1859, and was married in Spencer March 21, 1867, to Miss Mercy J. Driskell, who was born in this county and township Sept. 6, 1848. Their children are Mertie M., born July 6, 1868; Hattie F., Oct. 29, 1870; Alice L., April 6, 1873; Hugh E., Aug. 8, 1875; Lou Gertrude, May 21, 1879. Mr. Donard has a fine farm of 225 acres that constitutes his homestead, and another farm of 130 acres, three-quarters of a mile east, all valuable land, and under the best of cultivation. There are two good houses and barns upon the home lot, which he has built, besides other improvements, such as belong to a well-ordered farm of the American type. His business, conducted upon a systematic, liberal plan, cannot be other than

remunerative, as industry and economy will bring their own reward.

REUBEN FALCONER, farmer; P. O. Spencer; his father, a gentleman of English descent, whose given name was Henry, was born in 1763, and died in 1836. The mother's maiden name was Fannie Thockmorton, of French extraction, was born in 1774, died in 1827. The record of their marriage is not available, and we omit the date. They had ten children—Samuel A., Esther, William, Keziah, Abraham, Daniel, Francis, Belinda, Gilbert D. and Reuben; all dead except the latter and Belinda. Reuben was born May 9, 1818, in Wadsworth, Medina Co., Ohio, and wedded Oct. 1, 1840, Mrs. Lucinda May Booth, who was born in Leroy, Genesee Co., N. Y. Nov. 25, 1814. The children by this marriage were Reuben Henry, born Oct. 27, 1841; Fanny L., July 26, 1843, died Feb. 16, 1855; Lucinda M., Aug. 14, 1845 (now Mrs. George W. Gallatin); Archalaus R., Sept. 21, 1847; Amandus D., Sept. 27, 1849; Roswell G., April 5, 1852; John E., Feb. 10, 1855. Names of the children of Mrs. F. by first marriage with Daniel Booth were Laura G. and Lebuus Luman. Mr. F. came to Spencer Township in 1828, taking up 50 acres in the southeast part of the township. Afterward removing to his present location one-half mile north of River Corners, on an unimproved place, cleared it up himself and made the improvements now to be seen upon the premises. And now, in the decline of life, he can enjoy the fruits of his early labors and self-denial. His life, the repetition of the struggles and hardships of hundreds of others who begin life in the forest, and, persevering, surmount all impediments, and succeed by force of will and energy. He has a good farm of 100 acres, which, although of forbidding nature at first, has been made prolific by applying the modern methods of farming. Good books are his delight, and his mind is stored with valuable treasures of information. Enlisting under the first call of President Lincoln, for three months in the 8th O. V. I., Company K, commanded by Capt. Pierce; his regiment mustered in at Cleveland, April 27, 1861, and were sent to Camp Dennison, and mustered out Aug. 18, 1861, without Mr. F. seeing much service, except the ordinary routine of drill, guard and camp duty. His eldest son, Reuben H., enlisted in Capt. Williams' Company B, of the 42d O.





V. I. (President-elect J. A. Garfield's old regiment), serving as drummer until promoted to the position of Drum Major, which he held to the close of the war. The company were mustered in Sept. 22, 1861, and were mustered out at Camp Chase, Ohio, Sept. 30, 1864.

RICHARD FREEMAN, farmer; P. O. Spencer. He was born in December, 1837, and is one of the go-ahead, active farmers of this part of Medina Co., enterprising and fully up to the times. He married Miss Mary C. Aldrich, a lady of refinement and culture, by whom he has two children—James W. and Minnie M. He is located upon a good farm, with permanent improvements and well-settled neighborhood, and has a host of friends throughout the township, which speaks well for his uniform kindness and conduct to all. His parents, James and Elizabeth (Gull) Freeman, were born in Lincolnshire, England, and came to this State in 1837, settling in Akron, Summit Co., but moved to Spencer Township, this county, in the year 1842. Richard Freeman left this county in 1858, going to Iowa, where he remained until the firing upon Ft. Sumter, when he enlisted in the 12th I. V. I., Company K. They went to Camp Benton, Mo., remaining there about two months; drilling, guard and routine duties comprising the labor of those days, but fitting them for the more serious work of the near future—for they were soon sent to take part in the battles and victories of Fts. Henry and Donelson. That they performed their allotted tasks faithfully, winning the plaudits of the nation, for the first victories, we well know, bearing their part in those actions with the undaunted bravery which characterized the Western soldiers. In the next battle, that of Shiloh, Mr. Freeman was taken prisoner, April 6, 1862, and was paroled and exchanged Oct. 16, 1862. After rejoining his regiment, he participated in the battles of Raymond, Champion Hills, etc., and was at the surrender of Vicksburg, also the second battle of Jackson; he was with the disastrous Red River expedition, under Gen. Banks, comprising the battles of Pleasant Hill, Peach Orchard Grove, and Sabine Cross Roads. Among the other engagements were those of Iuka and Franklin, near Nashville, where the rebel army, under Gen. Hood, met a terrible defeat, and were driven out of Tennessee. He also participated in the pursuit of Gen. Price across the State of Missouri, for hundreds of

miles, our army suffering greatly by reason of forced marches and privations. Serving out his time of enlistment, he returned north and settled upon the farm where he now resides.

ALVIN W. GANNETT, farmer; P. O. Spencer; was born June 8, 1824, in Genesee Co., N. Y., and was married Oct. 1, 1846, to Miss Mary Stuart. She was born April 11, 1821, in Cortland Co., N. Y. The names of their children are—Frank A., born Nov. 16, 1847; Sarah M., May 17, 1849; Martha D., Aug. 20, 1850 (now Mrs. Henry Franks); Worthy H., April 24, 1856; Warner A., May 26, 1858. He died March 30, 1862; Willie A., May 26, 1860. The father of the subject of this sketch, Joseph Gannett, was born June, 1774, and was a native of the Old Bay State, his occupation being the oldest known to man, viz., farming. He married Miss Martha Stone, who was born in March, 1783, in the State of Massachusetts. They moved with their family to this State in the year 1835. Mr. Gannett died in this county in 1846. They had the following children—Aleck, Ruth, Olive, Joseph, Hannah, Alvin W. and Mary J.; there are four now living—Olive, Joseph, Hannah and Alvin W. Mr. Gannett says their present fine farm was a perfect wilderness when he and his father moved upon it. Together they felled the forest and subdued the land for their chosen occupation, and in common with others felt the privations of pioneer life. Theirs was the first frame house between the centers, and for a long time they were nearly alone. He has seen farm after farm gradually brought under cultivation, until now a landscape spreads out to the view, of well-cultivated fields dotted in all directions by homes of friends and neighbors. The farm, consisting of 150 acres of high, rolling, easily drained land, lies on both sides of the north-and-south road, is well fenced, has a good, commodious farm dwelling and convenient barns. Mrs. Mary (Stuart) Gannett had two brothers in the Union army who served their country faithfully during the war, in the 23d O. V. I., President Hayes' old regiment. Elijah R. was twice wounded, and once had the misfortune to be taken prisoner of war, and confined at Danville, Va.

JOSEPH GIAR, farmer; P. O. Spencer. The father of our subject, Henry Giar, was born in Westmoreland Co., Penn., in June, 1787; was by occupation a farmer, and married, in 1814, to Elizabeth Bender, who was born in



1797, and whose father, Jacob Bender, served throughout the time "that tried men's souls"—the Revolutionary war. The names of the children by this marriage were Mary, Joseph (the subject), Samuel, John, Elizabeth, Francis, Henry W. and James J.—all living at the date of this writing. Joseph was born in what is now called Carroll Co., Ohio, May 31, 1817, and came to this county April 14, 1834. He was married Nov. 1, 1840, to Relepha Tanner, born in Wayne Co., Ohio, September, 1818. Celia Lovina was the only child, who was born Feb. 11, 1843, and died June 27, 1850. Mrs. Giar departed this life Aug. 9, 1843. Mr. Giar was married again, May 22, 1845, to Miss Almira A. Turner, who was born June 23, 1827, in Orleans Co., Vt. The names of the children by the second marriage were—Emma M., Nettie R., Willard S., Levi W. and John H. Mr. G. came to Spencer Township at a time when there was but very little improvement in the south part of the town, helping to chop and clear of timber twenty-six miles of road, and, taking the farm where he now resides, which was a solid block of forest, has chopped and cleared, in the vicinity, 206 acres of beech and maple woods. In those early days a source of revenue was derived from the ashes of burned log heaps, by making what was called black salts, from which pearl-ash was made. After making enough for a load, he would haul it with an ox team to Litchfield to find a market. He has seen the wilderness blossom as the rose, and the primeval forest disappear before the sturdy blows of the ax in the hands of the daring, progressive pioneer. We can have but a faint conception to-day of the difficulties our fathers had to contend with; we hear the recital from aged lips of the hardships and privations of those early days, but, surrounded with our present civilization, cannot realize what our progenitors endured while erecting a home in the wilderness. Friend Giar made a division of his property a short time ago, bequeathing to each of his five children forty acres, retaining the buildings with nine acres of land, but has since bought back from one of the heirs the portion allowed, for \$1,000, which leaves him a homestead proper of about 50 acres.

M. H. HUFFMAN, farmer; P. O. Spencer; His father was Jacob Huffman, born in Washington Co., Penn., in 1804, and married Elizabeth Protzman, in Wayne Co., Ohio, in 1826. The

children were David H., Malachi H., Mary E., Melinda, John E., Jacob, George F. and Elizabeth L.; but five living at this date. Malachi H. was born on the 24th of August, 1830, in Chippewa Township, Wayne Co., Ohio; married June 6, 1858, to Miss Ann J. Rice, born in the same county, April 12, 1840. The children of this union were Horace Porter (dead), Charles T. (dead), Ada R., Francis M. (dead), Redella M., Eugene H. (dead), and Lilla B. Mr. Huffman came to Spencer Township in 1862, and, buying the farm of 106 acres where he now resides, has made a beautiful home by building a large, well-arranged and convenient house, warmed by a furnace, and supplied with other modern improvements, a good-sized library of valuable books, as well as other articles which evidence taste and refinement. His home is noted for its boundless hospitality and solid comfort, while a cheerful, smiling hostess dispenses the bounties of a well-filled table; an interesting, intelligent family of children, make up the sum of happiness to be found in this well-ordered household. In 1853, Mr. Huffman journeyed to Iowa, where he remained for several months, coming back to Ohio only to return in the spring of 1855, traveling on foot over a large part of the State, with the object of exploration and adventure. While there he bought a tract of land near Fort Dodge, afterward sold for lands in Medina County. He was a volunteer to repel a threatened Indian attack upon the frontier settlements of Western Iowa. The farm he now owns there is located four miles west of Des Moines. Mr. H., like many others, finally returned to his first love, Ohio, to settle down permanently in the everyday, uneventful life of a farmer, and he may well have a pardonable pride in his home and its surroundings. He has been President, for several years, of the Union District Fair, of West Salem, composed of members from the three counties of Ashland, Wayne and Medina.

SILAS KITCHEN, farmer; P. O. Spencer. Father Moses Kitchen was born in 1778, in Northampton Co., Penn. His occupation was that of tanner. He was married to Ann M. Andrews, of the same State. Their children were in the following order of birth: Elizabeth, Hannah, Jacob, Thomas, Christian, Susan, Eve, Silas (the subject of this biography), Jeremiah and Simon Peter—only three now living. Mr. K. came to the State of Ohio in the fall of





1818, stopping in Jackson Township, Wayne Co. then, but now known as Ashland Co. He died March 18, 1848. Silas was born May 5, 1819, in what is now Ashland Co., Ohio, and married Elizabeth Dickason, who also was born in Ashland Co., April 29, 1826. They moved in the spring of 1854 to this county. Ann M., James W., Sarah L., Zachariah H., Willard (dead), Elmer Ellsworth and Jeremiah. are the names of this interesting family. Mr. Kitchen has made the extensive improvements now seen on the homestead; has a large farm (380 acres), making additions from time to time to the original 100 acres of the old farm. The house, a large, substantial frame structure, gives promise of the comfort and contentment within. The grounds, adorned with shade trees, and the well-kept surroundings, show the handiwork of the intelligent, go-ahead American farmer. The well-stored book-case shows that Mr. K. intends to keep posted in all that pertains to advancement and literature, and he needs these helps, for a family of school-teachers have grown up around the hearthstone, and these books have played an important part by affording them general information so necessary to a successful teacher. An obliging neighbor, a friend in time of need, and a well-spent life, characterizes his record, an example that will live in the memories of children and friends long after he has passed away.

ALONZO H. MILLER, farmer; P. O. Chat-ham. Samuel Miller, the father of the gentleman whose name appears above, was born A. D. Dec. 2, 1821, and married March 26, 1837, to Miss Susanna Rice, who was born in Wayne Co., Ohio, Nov. 11, 1815; his occupation was that of cabinet-maker, learning his trade in Massillon, Ohio; he died Nov. 27, 1850. The children were Edwin R., born Feb. 15, 1838; Orlando died when a child; Alonzo H., May 31, 1841; Emma E., July 2, 1843; Charles E., Dec. 30, 1845, and George W., Nov. 11, 1848; all born in Stark Co., this State. Alonzo wedded Rachel A. Inman, March 26, 1867. (Her father, John Inman, was born in the State of New York, Aug. 5, 1822; he died Aug. 29, 1877; he was one of the earliest settlers of this township; her mother, Polly E. Graves, born July 26, 1827, and died July 18, 1862.) There were seven children, Frank I., born Jan. 8, 1868; Leeta E., Nov. 5, 1869; Clyde, Oct. 6, 1871 (dead); Lillian, Feb. 23, 1873, died March

20, 1873; John H., Sept. 11, 1874; Charles, July 11, 1877; Rachel A., Dec. 4, 1880. Mr. Miller met with the greatest misfortune that can fall to the lot of man, by losing the partner of his joys and sorrows, the mother of his children, who died Dec. 4, 1880; she was an estimable lady, and loving wife and mother. Upon the breaking-out of the war, Mr. Miller, impelled by patriotic ardor, enlisted in the 42d O. V. I. Company B, mustered in Sept. 22, 1861, and served three years and eight days. The regiment rendezvoused at Camp Chase, Columbus, Ohio, and were sent from there to Eastern Kentucky. The first battle in which he engaged was that of Middle Creek, Ky., marching from there to Cumberland Gap, where they had a number of lively skirmishes about that part of the State; were withdrawn from Cumberland Gap to Jackson, Ohio, and marched from there to Charleston, W. Va., the enemy retreating, thence back to Gallipolis, taking a steamer to Memphis, Tenn. The next engagements in which the regiment took an active part were Chickasaw Bluffs and Arkansas Post. From there to Young's Point, where they worked on the canal, intended to change the channel of the Mississippi, but the father of waters was too much for engineering skill, and the forces engaged were defeated in the attempt. He was with the expedition to obtain cotton bales for the purpose of protecting the men and boats preparing to run the batteries of Vicksburg. As the country was inundated, it was not so difficult to obtain it by poling flat-boats across the plantations wherever cotton could be found, but not so easy to return against the current. The succeeding action was that of Thompson's Hill, in the rear of Grand Gulf, followed by that of Champion Hills, near Vicksburg; he was in two desperate charges upon that besieged city; also the fight at Black River and Jackson (the second battle of that name). The regiment were then sent to New Orleans, thence to Opelousas, West Louisiana, and back to Plaquemine, where the majority of the regiment, tired of "tramp, tramp, the boys are marching," offered to veteranize as cavalry, but were refused the boon, and marched to Baton Rouge, near which place they had a skirmish, the last fight in which Mr. Miller was destined to be engaged. He was placed upon detached service soon after, under Adj. Gen. Thomas; serving his country



long and well, true to the old flag, conscious of having performed his duty as a citizen and a man, he was finally mustered out at Camp Chase, Ohio, Sept. 30, 1864. In civil life, he has the respect and confidence of his neighbors, who have several times elected him to the office of Township Trustee and Justice of the Peace.

JOHN ORISON MARSH, farmer; P. O. Spencer. The father of Mr. Marsh, John P. Marsh, is known as the first settler in this township, coming in the spring of 1823, buying 104 acres of land of Simon Parkman, two miles and a half east and north of the village of Spencer, by road. The person named at the head of this article was then 9 years old; born Jan. 2, 1814, in Smithville, N. Y.; he married Hannah Inman in the year 1839. Their children were named as follows: Maria, Elizabeth, Samuel P. and John A. His wife died Jan. 12, 1867. July 12, 1868, he married Miss Martha Murray, sister of Squire John C. Murray, of Spencer. Samuel P. Marsh, a brother of John O., was the first white child born in this township, A. D. March 25, 1826; he is now a resident of Oregon, doing well and amassing considerable property. John O., taking the gold fever in 1849, started that year for the land of promise, crossing the plains in wagons, until they reached Humboldt, where they took to saddles and pack-mules for the rest of the journey. After mining and prospecting two years, he started to return via Panama, but for some reason the vessel got out of its latitude, was becalmed for over sixty days, and the passengers and crew were put on short allowance of food and water, for that time suffering greatly, but were finally relieved after being out of sight of land ninety-four days. This trip and journey, with its scenes of excitement, danger and suffering, identifies Mr. Marsh with the celebrated "49-ers" of that era. The writer was shown, as a relic of early days, by Mr. Marsh, the family clock, which he has had in his family for forty years, and which cost \$40. It was made at Bristol, Conn., and has needed but trifling repairs, and is still running, keeping good time.

V. W. PARENT, farmer; P. O. Spencer; was born in Ontario Co., N. Y., Jan. 9, 1819, and married, June 23, 1842, Miss Lucy A. Baldwin, who was born Aug. 21, 1821; their children were William, born July 18, 1843, died Dec. 29, 1844; Paulina, now Mrs. H. J.

Foster, born Sept. 18, 1844; Julia and Julius (twins), born Sept. 9, 1847; Julius died Dec. 28, 1847; Edgar, born Sept. 18, 1849; Isabel, now Mrs. J. W. Ross, born Nov. 11, 1851; Alonzo, born April 9, 1855, died Feb. 2, 1874; Cora, now Mrs. Roswell G. Falconer, born Aug. 2, 1858. Mrs. Lucy A. Parent died Nov. 28, 1862; Mr. Parent married again, Feb. 9, 1863, Mrs. Julia A. Rounds, of Hampden Co., Mass.; she was born March 12, 1820. V. W. was the fourth child of William and Lois (Robbins) Parent. His father was born in New Jersey May 5, 1775, and died Jan. 21, 1873, aged 98; his mother was born Nov. 28, 1790; she died Jan. 13, 1878, aged 86 years. The names of his brothers and sisters, in order of their birth, are as follows: Calista, born June 13, 1810; Roxana, born Aug. 27, 1811; Benjamin, born May 3, 1813; V. W., born Jan. 9, 1819; Lois, born Oct. 11, 1820; William W., born Jan. 19, 1822; Hezekiah, born April 29, 1823; Margaret, born Sept. 19, 1825; Abigail, born Nov. 27, 1827; Elmina, born Aug. 12, 1829; Lucy, born June 21, 1839. Mr. Parent came to this county in 1837, a boy of 18, and, in the past forty-three years, has seen many and important changes occur in Spencer Township. Fruitful fields and happy homes have taken the place of the wild woods and bark wigwams, the home of the savage. In place of the tortuous trail, winding in and out among the trees and stumps, are broad highways with good bridges over the streams they were wont to ford. He is a well-to-do farmer; has over 200 acres of good land; keeps a large herd of stock, and is rugged and hearty for a man of his age, but would now hardly enjoy the pioneer life of forty years ago. He had two brothers who lost their lives in the army during the great rebellion—William W. enlisted in the 67th O. V. I., Co. F, Capt. E. Woodford, and participated in the battles of Winchester, Mt. Jackson, Edinburg, Harrison's Landing, Va., and Morris Island, Ft. Wagner, and the siege of the same, in South Carolina. Chester Station, Drury's Bluffs and the Cross Roads, Va., also at Richmond and Petersburg.

LEVI C. WILLIAMS, civil engineer, Spencer; was born June 16, 1834, at Shoal Creek, Lauderdale Co., Ala. He came to this State April 11, 1866, and settled in the eastern part of Spencer Township. He was married, March 31, 1855, to Sophia L. Blackman, who was born





in the town of Walworth, Wayne Co., N. Y., on the 6th of December, 1835. Their children were named George T., Jennie A., Alvan J., Jessie M., Flora A., Norman H., Ada L. and Seymour B. On the breaking-out of the war, he enlisted, on the 19th of April, 1861, in Co. A. (Capt. Lockaby) 96th N. Y. V. I. Their Captain deserting them, Earl Pierce was transferred from another regiment to the command of Co. A. Stephen Moffitt was Colonel, and George W. Hindes, Lieutenant Colonel. The regiment rendezvoused at Auburn and Elmira, N. Y., going to the front at Washington June 11, 1861, and were assigned to the First Division, Second Brigade, Sixth Corps. He participated in the following battles: Yorktown, Williamsburg, Fair Oaks, Jones' Ford, Malvern Hill, Charles City Cross Roads, Blackwater, Kingston, Whitehall, Swift Creek, Little Washington, Gardner's Bridge, Petersburg, Drury's Bluff, Cold Harbor, Ft. Harrison, and the second battle of Fair Oaks in 1864, and in the campaign resulting in the fall of Richmond, the rebel capital. Mr. Williams was, at different times, under Gens. Devens, Curtis, Nelson, Butler and Terry, and was twice slightly wounded. The father of the above-named gentleman was Theophilus Williams, born at Red Hook, Dutchess Co., N. Y., Dec. 20, 1799. His father moved to Oneida Co. while it was yet a wilderness, and he and his family endured great hardships and privations during the early years of the settlement. Mr. Williams was emphatically a self-made man, and, although he attained to quite an eminence in his profession as a civil engineer, yet he had no advantages for obtaining an education, but fought against early poverty, without teachers, and almost without books, except the few that were kindly loaned or given him. He taught school in the townships of Lee, Western, Fish Creek and other places, from 1822 to 1826. The somewhat celebrated Maj. Gen. H. W. Halleck, when a boy, was a pupil of his in one of these schools. He was married on the 10th of July, 1823, to Miss Annis A. Seymour, and, in 1826, received an appointment as civil engineer (under Judge Roberts, Chief Engineer) on the Ohio & Chesapeake Canal, also to the United States Topographical Engineers, under Col. Abert, in 1827. A year later, we find him making a survey and map of the Potomac River under Col. James Carney (or Karney).

In the fall of 1831, he was sent to the State of Alabama, under Judge Roberts, to engage in the construction of a steamboat canal around Muscle Shoals, on the Tennessee River. He succeeded Judge Roberts as Engineer in Chief in 1833, and finished the work in 1836, when he was promoted to the rank of Colonel in the United States Topographical Engineer Corps, and placed upon the staff of Gen. Andrew Jackson, then President, in 1838. He afterward resigned for a more active service—that of Consulting Engineer of the State of Tennessee, on a State system of McAdam and turnpike roads. In this position he remained until the summer of 1843, when he resigned and came North to Oneida Co., N. Y., but removed in the spring of 1846 to Western New York, and settled in Ontario Township, Wayne Co., where he followed the plow until 1850, when he was called to a more congenial pursuit as Chief Engineer on the enlargement of the Erie Canal, with an office located at Lockport, where he remained until removed by the opposite political party, when he obtained a situation as Chief Engineer on the Auburn & Syracuse Railroad in 1852 and 1853. He resigned to accept the position of Resident Engineer on the enlargement of the Erie Canal during the years of 1853 to 1856, having sole charge of the construction of forty-three miles of the canal, from Spencer Port to Reynale's Basin. He was again removed by the accession to power of the Know-Nothing party, to make room for some party favorite, in the fall of 1856. In 1860, Mr. Williams labored earnestly for the election of Abraham Lincoln, espousing the cause of the North, the more heartily from his knowledge of the evils of slavery, which his residence in the South had given him. He tendered his services to the Government, but was refused on account of his age. He became identified with the history of Medina Co. by moving to the eastern part of Spencer Township, where his son Levi C. now resides, in the spring of 1866, and purchased what was then known as the Peter Rice farm, where he lived until his death by apoplexy, Oct. 29, 1879. He experienced religion a few years before, and was a man universally respected as upright, just and charitable in all his dealings—a friend of the needy and oppressed, a champion of every reform. We cannot close this interesting biography without speaking of the life com-



panion of Mr. Williams. Annis Amanda Seymour was born in the town of Lee, Oneida Co., N. Y., June 19, 1807. She was related directly, on her father's side, with ex-Gov. Seymour, of New York. Her father was one of the earliest settlers of Oneida Co. She followed her husband with unerring devotion in all his various professional wanderings. She was the mother of seven children, three girls and four boys; only four of them are now living. She was ever the faithful, affectionate wife and kind, loving mother. After Mr. Williams' death, she bought a house and lot in the village of Chatham Center, this county, where she still lives, at the age of 73 years.

REV. ABEL WOOD, farmer and clergyman, Spencer. His parents were Francis Wood, born Oct. 12, 1764, in New Jersey; his mother, Rachel (Dodd) Wood, born in New Jersey, in January, 1774. They were married Oct. 22, 1722, in New Jersey. The father died Jan. 8, 1853, in this township, and his mother died in Sullivan, Lorain Co., Ohio. Mr. Abel Wood was born Oct. 9, 1802, in New Jersey, and married Jan. 9, 1823, in Richland Co., Ohio, Miss Catharine Rowland, who was born Aug. 6, 1800. The children by his first marriage were Rachel M., William B., Joseph R., Francis M., Christina R., James A. and Charles D. His wife and infant child died

April 7, 1838. The second marriage was with Mrs. Sophia (Graves) Tubbs, who was born Sept. 19, 1810, in Leroy, Genesee Co., N. Y. The children were Lucena S., Lebbues A., Charlotte C., Parmelia A., all born in Spencer Township. Mr. Wood has belonged to the Methodist Church for fifty-one years, and has assisted in the services, first, as Class-leader and Exhorter, and was ordained Deacon in 1853, and Elder in 1862. He was one of the earliest settlers, and a pioneer preacher; a conscientious earnest worker in his Master's service, sometimes, in order to meet appointments, walking to Sullivan, Brighton, Rochester, and many other places to hold divine services on Sundays. For further details of his pioneer life, see history of Spencer Township. His son, L. A. Wood, is a farmer, living a mile and three-quarters north of River Corners, formerly called Spencer's Mills. He was married March 22, 1869, to Miss Caroline Koons, who was born in Homer, Medina Co., Ohio, Feb. 20, 1850. The names of their children are as follows: Monroe E., born April 26, 1871, and died April 24, 1872; Mary A., March 15, 1873; Arthur Sidney, July 10, 1875. Mr. Wood's farm contains 103 acres, and shows the evidences of thrift and good management usual to our young American farmers.

## BRUNSWICK TOWNSHIP.

GEORGE BARRY, farmer; P. O. Brunswick. Among the prominent farmers and stockmen is the subject of this sketch. He is the son of George Barry, Sr., a native of New York, who married Catharine Faussaur, a native of France. They had three children—Henry, Stephen and the subject of this sketch. He was born in New York City in 1829. He was employed as a clerk in a wholesale establishment of his native city, and came to Brunswick in 1853. He was married to Maria Beadle, a native of New York. They have fourteen children—Catharine, Alice, Raphael, George, Carrie, Edward, William, Ella, Charles, Jessie, Stephen, Moses, Ernest and Oliver. Catharine is married to Joseph Beebe; Alice is married to Frank Beebe; Carrie is married to H. E. Bolles; George is married to Rosetta Heacox.

He was a participant in the great sleigh ride. He is a lover of fine stock, and takes pride in having some of the best horse-flesh extant.

WILLIAM WAYNE BROWN, farmer; P. O. Brunswick. Samuel B. Brown, a native of New York, was born Nov. 16, 1803, and was married to Sybel Seton Oct. 24, 1824. She was born in New York July 19, 1806. Three of their children are now living—William W., Edwin B. and Amelia E. William Wayne was born in Hinckley, Medina Co., Dec. 11, 1831. He received a common-school education, and learned the trade of carpenter and joiner. He was married, June 6, 1851, to Jane Furniss, a native of Royalton, Ohio. She died a short time after their marriage. He was re-married, to Sophronia Sarles, a native of Royalton. They have four children—Bernice C., married





Bertha Parker; Frank W., married Maggie M. Sell; Elmer O. and Ida M. He has held the office of Assessor of his township.

HENRY BENNETT, farmer; P. O. Brunswick. Among the prominent farmers of Brunswick is the subject of this sketch. His father, Capt. O. R. Bennett, was a native of New Hampshire, and was in the war of 1812. He was married to Elizabeth Ford. They came here in 1828, and were the parents of seven children, among whom was Henry. He was born in Brunswick July 29, 1829. He obtained a common-school education, and has been an honored resident and farmer ever since. He was married, in 1851, to Eunice Squier, a native of New York. They have two children—Addie M. and Hallie W. The former is married to Egbert Benjamin; they have three children—Clarence C., Alda C. and Anna L.

WILLIAM BENNETT, farmer; P. O. Brunswick; was born in Orleans Co., N. Y., Sept. 18, 1820. He is the son of John Bennett, who married Hester Johnson. They had four children, of whom he is the oldest. They came here in a wagon, when the country was new, in 1826. He was married, in 1849, to Sarah M. Pritchard, a native of New York. They have one daughter—Alice. He is one of the prominent farmers of his township, and has served as Township Trustee several terms. He has been President of the Medina County Agricultural Society for a number of years, and is extensively known throughout the county.

NEWELL M. COWLES, farmer; P. O. Brunswick. Sylvester Cowles was born March 4, 1796, and was from Amherst, Mass. He married Sophronia Mason, of Covington, Mass. They had four children—Newell M., Sheperd B., Malma A. and Emily J. The subject of this sketch was born in Amherst, Mass., in 1822. His parents removed to New York in 1826, where they remained until 1835, when they came to Brunswick. They cleared some land, and made it fit for farming. Newell M. was married in 1852, to Helen M. Davis, a native of Garland, Maine. They have four children—Lucy D., Mason E., Mary A. and Martha A. He is a member of the Congregational Church.

PETER FOLEY, farmer; P. O. Brunswick. Among the farmers of this township is the subject of this sketch, who was born in Wexford, Ireland, in 1833. He is the son of James Foley, who was born in 1799. He married Margaret

Carrigan, who was the daughter of Patrick Carrigan. They had six sons and two daughters; two of the sons are now living, James and Peter. His parents emigrated to this country in 1848. He has been living in Brunswick for the past fifteen years. He was married in 1870 to Mary McDonald, a native of Montville Township, this county. They have four children—Mary Jane, born Jan. 6, 1872; Margaret, born Jan. 26, 1874; William, born Feb. 9, 1877; James, born Aug. 20, 1879. They are members of the Roman Catholic Church.

LANSON GRAHAM, farmer; P. O. Brunswick. He was born in Brattleboro, Vt., in 1818. His father, Caleb Graham, was married to Lucy Whitney, a native of Vermont. They had nine children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the oldest. His parents came to Medina Co. in 1819. His father started from Vermont with a horse and wagon, and, when within fifty miles of Buffalo, the horse died. They then came to Cleveland in a boat, and the family was left there until the father came to Brunswick, and obtained a yoke of oxen with which he went to Cleveland, and brought his family to their new home in the wilderness. He obtained his education in the common schools, and was married in 1842, to Jane Stephenson, a native of New York, she coming into this county when 12 years old. They have six children, two sons and four daughters. He has held the office of Township Trustee for several terms. He was at one time a member of the I. O. O. F., and is now a Freemason. Below, we give the names of children and marriages: Almira C., married to George Wait; Helen M., married to Charles Strong; Ella J., married to Nelson Forschner; James M., Harold B. and Zelma E.

MARTIN GANYARD, farmer; P. O. Brunswick. His father, James Ganyard, a native of New York, was married to Sallie Low. They settled in Granger, this county, in 1818. They had six children—James S., Almira, Martin, Matilda, Ansel and Roenus. Martin, the subject of this sketch, was born in Granger, Medina Co., Ohio, in 1827. He obtained a common-school education, and worked on the farm. He came to Brunswick in 1868. He was married, in 1853, to Eliza M. Briggs, a native of New York. They have three children—Almond, Willis, who is married to Jennie Harrington. They have two children—Leona and an infant,



and Ella, who is married to Arthur Wyman. They have one child. This is a record of a family of musicians. They are relatives of the celebrated violinist Ganyard, of New York.

**WILLIAM KENNEDY**, farmer; P. O. Brunswick. He was born in Scarborough, Canada, in 1818. His father, Andrew Kennedy, was a native of New York. He was married to Mary Perkins, a native of Maine. There were seven children, five sons and two daughters. The subject of this sketch was the second son. His education was obtained in a common school. He spent his younger days on his father's farm. When he became 20 years of age, the patriot war was raging in Canada. He was an American, and was styled as a "Yankee." His life was threatened and he was compelled to escape. He came to Medina Co. in 1838, and was married, in 1841, to Elizabeth Hamilton, a native of Medina County. They have seven children—Henry P., Albert H., Irving H., Mary E., Loretta E., Viola E. and Hattie E. He is a member of the Congregational Church. He has been Justice of the Peace for twelve years, and has served as County Commissioner eight years. His grandfather, John Kennedy, was in the Revolutionary war, and drove the oxen that drew bales of hay up Bunker Hill for fortifications. Tradition says he steered the boat when Washington crossed the Delaware. Thus it will be seen that patriotic blood flows in the veins of the subject of this sketch.

**THEODORE KEHREN**, farmer; P. O. Brunswick. Laurent Kehren was a village schoolmaster. His ancestors were from Holland. He was married to Catharine Metzger, a native of Alsace. They had thirteen children, among whom was the subject of this sketch. He was born in Rommanswiler, Alsace, Nov. 9, 1831. He worked at the trade of candle-maker for the paltry sum of \$1 per month. He came to America in 1848, and worked a short time in Milton, N. J., in a wadding factory, and then went to New York City, where he learned the trade of a watch-case maker. At this he labored incessantly for sixteen years, and, by economy and prudence, amassed some means, with which he bought the farm on which he now resides. He came to Brunswick in 1864, where he has been living ever since. He was married, in 1863, to Caroline Hammon, a native of Liverpool, this county. They have two chil-

dren—George L. and Florine. He has the esteem and respect of his neighbors, and all those with whom he is acquainted. His sentiments and ideas are liberal. He is no slave to any church or secret organization. He takes for his religious standard "a true, moral, positive science." He is a firm believer and supporter of the constitution, and takes pride in being a kind and indulgent father, and a true, honest and upright citizen of the United States. Although he has made some enemies by his expression of sentiments, he fears not to speak what his conscience dictates him to be right and just. He is a deep and liberal thinker, and does not shirk an expression of sentiment. These traits are evidences of true manhood and nobility, and adored by him when compared with deception and bigotry. But, with all these traits, he claims to be far from perfection, but human and liable to err.

**EPHRAIM LINDLY**, farmer; P. O. Brunswick; whose portrait has been selected and appears in connection with the history of Brunswick as a fit representation of the old pioneers, was born in Rutland, Vt., Sept. 16, 1796, and is the son of Abia and Nancy (Power) Lindly. So far back as we are able to give it the genealogy of his father's people, only reaches to the grandfather of the subject of this sketch. Jacob Lindly, his grandfather, was a soldier in the Revolutionary war. He married Mindwell Pond, and they reared a family of ten children, three daughters and seven sons. Abia, one of the latter, was the father of Ephraim. He was a loyal citizen, and served his country in the war of 1812. In 1802, he, with his wife, went to Connecticut, where they remained until 1811. They then came West, and settled in the Western Reserve. This trip was made overland in a two-wheeled cart, drawn by a yoke of oxen, and one horse, driven at tandem. They were two months on the journey. Ephraim attained only a common-school education, he being obliged to spend much of his early life helping his father to clear land. On his mother's side, Nathaniel Power, her grandfather, was born in Cumberland, R. I., June 23, 1748. He died April 17, 1836, in Lenox, Penn., in his 89th year. Lucy Tingly, the wife of Nathaniel Power, was born in Attleboro, Mass., in 1758, and was married to Nathaniel Power on Nov. 29, 1774; Nancy Power, daughter of Nathaniel and Lucy, was born in Attleboro, Mass., on Dec.





15, 1777, and was married to Abia Lindly, on Jan. 1, 1794, in Kingsbury, N. Y. In October, 1816, Ephraim Lindly became a resident of Brunswick Township, and, in 1821, he was married to Miss Mary Crittenden, who is a native of Massachusetts. Their beginning in life was under difficulties to be overcome, requiring the stoutest hearts and the most willing of hands. Few of the present generation, who are residents of Brunswick Township, can comprehend the loneliness of their little cabin home in a vast wilderness, surrounded by wild animals and Indians. Yet, under these difficulties, they have in the years of their residence in Brunswick, builded for themselves a home and a reputation that stands as a monument to their honesty and industry. Mr. Lindly has been a member of the M. E. Church for about half a century. For the past forty years, he has been Superintendent of the M. E. Sabbath school connected with his church. For thirty-five years, he has been exhorter in the church. He was also elected a delegate to the Annual Conference held in Wooster, Ohio. The citizens have honored him with the office of Township Trustee. They have reared a family of six children, named as follows: Julia, now wife of James O. Johnson; Mary, now wife of David S. Safford; Rachel, now wife of Edward Hulet; John W., George E. and Francis W. The latter, who married Miss Hattie M. Stevens, has taken a very active part in the prosperity of the M. E. Church and Sabbath school in which he has been elected Steward and Recording Steward for the Brunswick Circuit. He was born in 1839, and now lives with his father. During the war of the rebellion, he served his country nobly in the 103d O. V. I., Co. K. While in the battle of Kenesaw Mountain, he was wounded, by which misfortune he lost one of his limbs.

**HANNAH M. LOCKWOOD**; P. O. Brunswick. Andrew Lockwood was born April 6, 1763, in Stamford, Conn. He married Elizabeth Webb, who was born March 16, 1771, in the same place. They had six children—Benjamin, Isaac, Webb, Oliver F., Maria Jane and Rena. Oliver F., the husband of the subject of this sketch, was born in Stamford, Conn., April 26, 1807. He learned the trade of shoemaker. He was married, in 1829, to Hannah M. Finney. They removed to Ashtabula, Ohio, in 1834; remained there until 1847, when they

removed to Brunswick. They have five children—Mary E., who married Daniel Strong; Josephine E., who married Lewis T. Rogers; E. Webb, who married Marietta Doolittle; they have two children—Frank R. and Burton M.; John A., married to Mary J. Moon; they have four children—Gertrude L., Harley F., Jesse L. and Lena; Maria J.

**PETER LEISTER**, farmer; P. O. Brunswick; was born in Prussia Jan. 5, 1825, and obtained a common-school education. He emigrated to America in 1846, and went to Cleveland, and remained there until 1850, when he came to Brunswick, where he has been living ever since. He was married, in 1850, to Anna C. Krause, a native of Prussia. She emigrated to America with her parents in 1845; they have four children—Anton A., Adam, Eliza and Caroline.

**OMRI MORTON**, farmer; P. O. Bennett's Corners. Simeon Morton, the grandfather of the subject of this sketch, was married to Sybil Graves; they had three children, among whom was Reuben Morton, who was married to Mary Frary. They had eight children. Omri Morton was born in Whately, Franklin Co., Mass., July 24, 1815. He attended the common schools, and learned the trade of stonemason. He came to Medina Co. in 1840, and was married to Selecta Carpenter, a native of Strongsville, Cuyahoga Co., Ohio. They have four children—Bradley C., married to Sarah Beaham, who have three children—Lena, Lucy and Alma; Mary, married to W. Clement, who have one child—Rollin; Alexander H. and Marcus. He is a highly respected citizen, and is extensively acquainted throughout the township.

**JOHN W. MORTON**, farmer; P. O. Brunswick; was born in Massachusetts in 1819; came to this county in 1833, and has lived here ever since. He was married, in 1841, to Harriet Hall; they had four children—Emma, Ellen, Mary and Frank. She died in 1870; he was remarried to Mary A. Collyer, a native of England. He is a member of the M. E. Church. He has served as Township Trustee several terms, and also as Assessor.

**ZEPHANIAH OAKLEY**, bridge-builder; Brunswick. Abraham Oakley, a native of New Lisbon, N. J., was married to Betsey Taylor. They had four children—William, Emmanuel, Mary and the subject of this sketch. He was born in Wayne Co., Ohio, in 1826. He



came to Medina Co. in 1831, and has resided here the major portion of his life. His education was received in the common schools. He learned the trades of blacksmith and carpenter. He was married, in 1851, to Moriva E. Wells, a native of Summit Co.; she is a daughter of Jared Wells, one of the pioneers of the county. She is a woman of refinement, a Christian, kind-hearted lady in every sense of the word, as all her neighbors and acquaintances testify. They are one of the model families of Brunswick, bearing the esteem, confidence and good-will of all. They are members of the M. E. Church, and the needy and comfort-seeking are never forgotten by them. They have two children—Alvin A., who is married to Anna Stevenson, and Clara E., who is married to Albert Marshall. Mr. Oakley is in the employ of the King Iron Bridge Company, of Cleveland, and superintends the construction of bridges in all parts of the country.

THEODORE PERKINS, farmer; P. O. Brunswick. The grandfather of the subject of this sketch was born in Enfield, Conn., June 7, 1797. His grandfather, Daniel Perkins, was a Representative in the Legislature. He married Rebecca Wadsworth, a sister of Gen. Wadsworth, a Revolutionary officer. They had two children—George and Daniel. The latter married Persus Billings; her father was a participant in the French and Revolutionary wars, and witnessed the death of Gen. Wolfe. They had five children—Norman, Theodore, Henry, Horace and Samuel. He worked at the coloring business, when young, and farmed some. He accumulated some wealth and went into the peddling business with Maurice Matthews, an Englishman of wealth. This they carried on very successfully, and erected a business house near Rochester, N. Y., which was destroyed by fire. He took the means he had left and purchased land in Medina Co., and has resided here since 1832. He was married to Polly M. Johnson, a native of Fairfield, Vt. They have four children. Maurice M., who married Rachel Davis; six children—Myrtia E., William T., Thomas J., Mary A., Stella M., Maurice M. Peter married to Mary Bryan, four children—Josephine, Frederick, Theodore, George. William married to Mary Stone, two children—Emma, Bessie. Charlotte married to Linus Thayer, three children—Cora, Frank, Eva. He has suffered loss several times by

fire, and his house, with all its contents, burned to the ground recently. He is a member of the honorable fraternity of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons, and "governs himself accordingly."

ALBERT F. ROOT, store, Brunswick. The ancestors of the subject of this sketch were prominent people, and were extensively acquainted throughout the county. William Root, a native of Connecticut, was the father of six sons and one daughter. One of the sons, James A., was the father of the subject of this sketch. He was born in Brunswick July 14, 1818. He was married to Susan H. Whitman, a native of Connecticut. His younger days were spent on a farm. His educational facilities were very limited, and all the prestige he won in his town was through his own exertions. His father kept a tavern, where he had an opportunity of judging human nature and learning the lesson of life. By his honesty of character, sincerity of purpose and traits of true manhood, he won the esteem and confidence of his fellow-citizens. His whole life was marked by deeds of charity. Was a family in need by unforeseen occurrences, such as fire and sickness, he was always ready to contribute abundantly to alleviate their sufferings. He had a moral influence such as no other man can boast of. He was ever ready to do a charitable act; to make the suffering happy was his joy; doing good was his element. He held the office of Justice of the Peace for twenty-one years. He was elected to the Legislature in 1864, and was on the Ways and Means Committee; he introduced the "bill to raise the wages of jurymen." His greatest aim in life was to be honest. He was the father of one son—Albert F., who was born Aug. 14, 1841. His younger days were spent in attending school. His father kept a store, and, when he had finished his education, he aided him in carrying on his business. His father died Nov. 2, 1878; this left the son in charge of the business, which they had by their strict attention and fair dealing made an object. He was married, in 1871, to Sarah Buckingham, a native of New York. After a short and happy union, death again came to his door, and she expired Oct. 29, 1880.

MOSES SHERMAN, farmer; P. O. Brunswick; was born in Newport, R. I., in 1803; he received a common-school education, and went





to Steuben Co., N. Y., with his parents in 1825, where he learned the trade of cooper, and remained until 1832, when he came to Brunswick and has lived here ever since. He cleared considerable land, and by his industry has made for himself a beautiful home. He was married, in 1831, to Mercy Lamphear, of Montreal, Canada; they have twelve children living and one dead—Byron W., married to Sallie Benjamin, three children—Cora, Mertia, Ella; Harriet, married to William Dickey, one child—Winfred; Olive, married to M. Fenn, five children—Harriet, Elma, Frederic, Francis, Irving; Amanda, married to William Bradford, three children—Minnie, Mertia, Ray; Addie, married to Charles Saulsbury, two children—Bernice, Blanche; Mary (deceased), married to William Bradley, three children—Sherman, Clayton, Linus; Martha, married to Frederic Lance, two children—Orrin, Byron; Mertia, married to Charles Dickey, three children—Albert, Claude, Alice; Sadie, married to Byron Babcock; Moses, married to Lettie Bradley, three children—Stephen, Delazon and Orrin.

CORNELIUS SHERMAN, farmer; P. O. Brunswick; was born in Newport, R. I., May 14, 1805. He worked at the trade of cooper, and came to Brunswick in 1832. He was married to Samantha A. Hier, a native of Vermont. They have seven children living—William H., who married Lucia Cleveland, has the following children—Frank, Eva, Anna and Ida S.; Frank W., who married Ida Oviatt; Cornelius, who married Louisa Allen, has three children;—Irvin, Nora, Harland; Charles H., who married Addie Cole, has three children—Howard, Grace, Charles; Richard M., who married Elizabeth Liew, has one child—Ora; Sarah Ann, who married E. Piper, two children—Luella and Ford; Ida E., who married Harry Williams, two children—Earle and Maud; Hiram went into the war, took sick and died.

JOHN WARD STOW, farmer; P. O. Brunswick. Jonathan Stow, a native of Connecticut, who carried on the business of "chaise-maker," was married, in 1802, to Rhoda Ward, a native of Connecticut; her father, John Ward, was a soldier in the Revolution. Jonathan Stow died Dec. 14, 1813, and his wife, Rhoda, Jan. 10, 1841; they had two children to perpetuate their name—Daniel B. and the subject of this sketch. He was born in Pittsfield, Mass., in 1808. He attended the schools of

his native village, and came to Brunswick in company with his uncle, Isaac Ward, in 1818. He completed his education in the district school of Brunswick. He obtained his livelihood in clearing land and fitting it for farming. He was married, Jan. 12, 1837, to Fidelia Avery, a native of Massachusetts; they had two sons—Charles A., who was born Oct. 21, 1842, and Frederic S., who was born March 10, 1850. His wife died Oct. 10, 1853; he was remarried, April 12, 1855, to Sarah Rounds, a native of England; they have one daughter—Clara F., who was born Aug. 25, 1856. He has by hard labor amassed some property, and what he now has was obtained by hard and excessive toil. He has the confidence and esteem of his fellow-citizens, and has served as County Commissioner, Justice of the Peace, Township Trustee, Clerk and Constable.

JONATHAN D. STOW, Sheriff, Brunswick. He is the son of Daniel Stow, and was born in Brunswick in 1832. He attended the schools of Brunswick, and spent the major part of his life on the farm. He was married in 1860, to Georgia N. Root, a native of Brunswick. They have three children—Ernest D., Libby B. and Katy I. He is a member of the Congregational Church; has been Township Clerk six years, and Trustee two years. He was recently elected Sheriff, and will begin the duties of that office on the first Monday in January, 1881. He is a member of the I. O. O. F. He is a good citizen, and has, by his good character, won the esteem and confidence of the people of Medina Co.

ROBERT TIBBITTS, farmer; P. O. Brunswick. Thomas Soden Tibbitts was a native of England, and was married to Jane Carter. They had nine children, the youngest of whom was the subject of this sketch. He was born in Soham, England, Feb. 6, 1840, and came here with his parents in 1852. He carried on the business of huckster and worked on the farm. He was married Nov. 2, 1862, to Margaret Soden, who was born in Shilton, England, Nov. 26, 1837. They have two children—Matthias and Walter; the former is attending college at Berea, Ohio. They had no opportunity to obtain an education, and intend to give their children all the advantages of education possible.

MARY WHEELOCK; P. O. Brunswick. Solomon Harvey, a native of Massachusetts, was married to Polly Stearns, of the same State. He was a farmer, and emigrated to this county



at an early date. He was one of the pioneers of this township. They had six children, five of whom are now living—Mary, John, Sarah, George and Solomon. Mary, the subject of this sketch, was married to Ithamar Wheelock in 1830. He was a native of Massachusetts, and came into this county in 1825. His education was obtained in the common schools. He was a useful and honest citizen, and a kind and obliging neighbor. He, by his industry, became the possessor of real estate. He died, leaving a widow and five children—Louis, Sarah Ann, Adeline, John and Lester. She is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The following is the marriage record: Lewis, married to Jane Blackman; Sarah Anne, married to Joseph Bell; Adeline, married to Daniel Brant; Lester, married to Katie Tibbitts.

JOHN W. WELLING, farmer; P. O. Brunswick. He was born in New Brunswick, July 2, 1807. His parents came to New York State the same year; he attended the common school, and went to Vermont in 1826; he learned the trade of carpenter. He came to Brunswick in 1835, and cleared 70 acres of

land, where he has ever since resided. He was married in 1829 to Margaret Carpenter, a native of Vermont, who was born Sept. 23, 1809. The following is the record of the family births: Edward, born Sept. 26, 1831; Peleg J., Aug. 19, 1833; Jemima, Aug. 27, 1835; Orvill M., Nov. 25, 1838; Eunice M., Oct. 11, 1841. The deaths were Orvill M., died at Harper's Ferry, Nov. 26, 1862; Mrs. Welling died Nov. 6, 1878. All the living children are married.

JAMES D. WILSON, farmer; P. O. Brunswick. Darius Wilson, a native of New York, was born March 28, 1803. He was a carpenter, and was married Oct. 13, 1825, to Temperance Chace, who was born Jan. 8, 1806, in Pompey, N. Y. Three of their children are now living—Homer E., Martha A. and the subject of this sketch. He was born in Brunswick May 13, 1841, and was married to Helen A. Porter, a native of Springfield, Ill., May 24, 1862. They have two children—Clara B., born Sept. 8, 1863, and Minnie F., born March 7, 1872. He has served as Township Trustee several terms, and is a member of the Disciples' Church.

## HINCKLEY TOWNSHIP.

JUSTUS A. BABCOCK, farmer; P. O. Bennett's Corners; was born in Columbia Co., N. Y., Feb. 11, 1808. He is a son of William and Anna (Lovejoy) Babcock. His father died when he was but 4 years old; his mother subsequently married Martin Benjamin, and removed to Brunswick Township, Medina Co., where she resided up to the time of her decease, Sept. 18, 1861. Justus remained in New York State until he was 24 years of age, following the occupation of a farmer. He was united in marriage in Columbia Co., Sept. 13, 1829, to Miss Rachel Jones, also a native of that county; she was born May 7, 1811. In the fall of 1833, they removed to Ohio, locating in Hinckley Township, upon the western township line, where they are still living, enjoying the fruits of their industry. Mr. Babcock first took up 70 acres of timbered land, and cleared it by his own individual efforts. He has since added 60 acres adjoining, and has 17 acres in the southern part of the township; his land is well im-

proved and conveniently located. Their family consists of the following children—Eliza Ann, married to Uri Squiers, now living in Michigan; James S., who died at the age of 3 years; Esther J., married to Harvey Crooks, now residing in Michigan. Susan H., the wife of Darius Conant, living in Hinckley Township; Dan J., married to Miss Ann Waite, and living in Michigan; Jay, married to Miss Helen Olds, living with parents; Mary, married to Frank Brooks, and residing in Brunswick Township; and Celia, who died aged about 14 months. Mr. Babcock has served the township in many offices of trust, all of which he has discharged with ability and honor. He has been actively identified with the educational matters of the township, having been a teacher for about ten winter sessions.

HARRISON H. BEACH, farmer; P. O. Remson's Corners; was born in Schoharie Co., N. Y., in August, 1817. His parents were Alger and Mary (Near) Beach; his father was a na-





tive of Connecticut; his mother was born in Hudson, N. Y. They moved from Schoharie Co., to Ohio in 1818, and first located in Richfield Township, which was in Medina Co. at that time; they remained in Richfield about fifteen years and then removed to Granger Township, where they resided about two years. About 1835, they removed to Hinckley Township, locating on the south town line, where they remained until their deaths; his father's death occurred in November, 1838; his mother's in August, 1847. Their children, who are now living, are as follows: Elijah, now living in Knox Co., Ill.; he was a soldier in the Mexican war. James now a resident of Ionia Co., Mich., where he is an extensive farmer; Harriet Post now residing in Knoxville, Ill.; and the subject of this sketch. Harrison's occupation all through his life has been that of a farmer, commencing in his youth, when the land had to be cleared of timber before it could be tilled, up to the present time when ingenious machinery makes the occupation less laborious. He was united in marriage Aug. 18, 1842, to Miss Sylvia L. Bradley; she was born in Canada West, May 1, 1822; her parents were residents of Hinckley Township for several years, but finally returned to Canada, where her mother still resides. Her father died in Canada; he was in the English service during the war of 1812. In 1844, Harrison bought the old homestead farm, where he has since resided; it contains sixty acres, and, with the exception of a few acres of woodland, is finely improved land. They have four children, all residents of Hinckley—Emily E. Vaughn, Henry, O. G. and Mary A. Duncan.

S. F. CODDING, Postmaster and merchant, Hinckley. One of the prominent business men of Hinckley is S. F. Coddling, the subject of this biography; he was born in Granger Township in 1826, and is the son of George and Jerusha (Spencer) Coddling, who were pioneers of Granger Township. They were both natives of New York State; he was born in Bristol, Ontario Co., and his wife in Geneva; they were residents of Granger Township up to their deaths; he died in 1845 and she a few years previous, about 1841. They had seven children—Myron C., S. F., Nancy, who died aged 16 years; Albert died when young; Harriet M., deceased; Lucy A., deceased; William E., living in Ottawa, Ill. Mr. Coddling, by a sec-

ond wife, had one child, who is now married and living in Medina. Our subject's early life was passed upon his father's farm, assisting in clearing up the land; he remained upon the farm until he attained his majority. He was married to Miss Sarah M. Newton in 1848. Her parents, Mathew and Relief (Straight) Newton, were natives of New York, and old residents of Granger Township. Mr. Coddling bought a farm in Granger Township in 1849, and for several years followed the occupation of a farmer in different parts of the township; he came to Hinckley in 1864, and bought 75 acres of land, located northwest of the Center, remaining upon it for eight years, he then sold it and bought a general stock of goods in Hinckley Center, and has been in trade there up to the present time (1880). For the past six years he has been Postmaster; has also served the township as Trustee one term, as Assessor one term, Justice of the Peace for five years, and as County Commissioner two terms; is a member of Hinckley Lodge, No. 304, I. O. O. F. Mr. Coddling's family consists of five children, as follows: Nancy J., Evangeline M., Henry H., Willis L. and Jesse, deceased.

A. L. CONANT, farmer; P. O. Hinckley; was born July 18, 1802, in Herkimer Co., N. Y. His parents were Timothy and Rhoda (Lyon) Conant, natives of New York State. His father was born April, 1771, and his mother June 18, 1769. They were married April 4, 1794. They came to Richfield, then in Medina Co., in July 1819, and in the fall of 1825, removed to Hinckley Township, locating on the Ridge road. They resided in Hinckley Township most of their days. She died in the township June 29, 1845. After her death her husband went to Chesterville, Morrow Co., and resided with his son, Rev. Daniel M. Conant, where he died March 21, 1859. The children were as follows: Rev. Daniel M. Conant, born Feb. 19, 1796, died at Nevada, Ohio, Dec. 27, 1873; Timothy B., now living in Hinckley Township; Chester, born Sept. 27, 1800, now living in Michigan; Aaron L., the subject of this sketch; Rhoda Darrow, widow, living in Michigan, born July 4, 1804; Patty McGoon, born May 6, 1806, deceased; she was the first person married in Hinckley Township, which occurred in the spring of 1826; Ahmeda Buck, born Feb. 23, 1808, now a widow, living in Putnam Co.; Lewis Conant, born June 13, 1810,



died Oct. 12, 1812. Aaron worked with his father until 20 years of age, and then started out in life for himself. He went to New York and farmed for three years; he then returned to Hinckley and bought a farm upon the "ridge," remaining there until 1834. He then purchased the farm where he now resides, and has made his home there up to the present time. He has 70 acres of fine, improved land, and about 10 acres of timber. He was married Sept. 16, 1830, to Miss Victoria C. Kellogg, daughter of Joshua and Clarissa (Alvord) Kellogg, old residents of Hinckley Township. She was born in Hadley, Mass., Sept. 3, 1809. They have had six children—Hiram, deceased; Mortimer, deceased; Emeline Dunham, living in Michigan; Daniel, deceased; Elvira V. Perrin, living at home, and Ethan, living at home. Mr. and Mrs. Conant are members of the Methodist Church.

**TIMOTHY B. CONANT**, farmer; P. O. Hinckley. One of the pioneers of Hinckley Township is T. B. Conant. He is a native of New York, and was born in Herkimer Co. Sept. 22, 1798. His father, Timothy Conant, was a carpenter and joiner, and, while a youth, young Timothy learned the trade, and assisted his father until he was about 20 years old. He then decided to come to Ohio, and arrived in Richfield in March, 1819. He went to farming immediately, and remained there about fifteen years. He then disposed of his property and came to Hinckley Township in 1834, buying a farm, on which he has resided up to the present time. He has 121 acres of wheat, and about 25 acres in woodland. He was married, Oct. 11, 1820, to Miss Nancy Buck, daughter of Enoch and Alice (Babeock) Buck, pioneers of Richfield Township; she was born in New York State Dec. 23, 1797, and died Aug. 19, 1837. They had eight children—Alice Fluent, living in Granger; Parmelia Fluent, deceased; Lewis, living in Hinckley; Plympton, living in Kansas; Timothy, living in California; Melissa Richardson, living in Ashtabula Co.; Nancy Ganyard, deceased; Amanda Sylvester, living in Kansas. Mr. Conant was married to a second wife—Miss Abigail B. Buck—April 1, 1838; she was born in New York Jan. 23, 1810, and died Oct. 20, 1880. They had four children, as follows: Sanford, deceased; Olive; Darius, living in Hinckley Township, and Isaiah, living at home.

**JULIUS and NATHAN DAMON**, farmers; P. O. West Richfield. They are the sons of Nathan and Hannah (Shaw) Damon, who were natives of Massachusetts. Nathan was born in 1793, and his wife in 1797. They were married in Massachusetts, and came to Ohio in 1828, locating in Hinckley Township, buying 178 acres of land. They were residents of the township up to the time of their decease, which occurred in September, 1843, and June, 1869. Julius was born in Massachusetts, Nov. 29, 1824. He was married in 1848, to Miss Electa Eastman, of Cuyahoga Co.; she died in 1855, leaving one child—Ella—who is married and living in Cleveland. He was married the second time to Miss Kate Babeock, daughter of Joshua Babeock, now living in Michigan. They have three children—George J., Herbert L. and Lulu J.—all living at home. Mr. Damon's occupation has always been that of a farmer, and in it he has been very successful. He now owns about 240 acres, and, with the exception of 50 acres of timber land, all improved. He is making a specialty in stock and sheep, and has devoted some time to fruit culture, having at present about 35 acres of apple orchard and several acres of peaches. He has served the township as Trustee several terms, and as Assessor two terms. Nathan A. Damon was born in Hinckley Township in 1832. He has, since his youth, been at home and working on the old homestead, and, since the death of his parents, it has fallen into his possession. He has 83 acres of land, about 30 of which is in timber. He devotes his time to general farming, making no specialty. He was married Feb. 11, 1869, to Miss Adeline Searles, a daughter of Daniel Searles, of Hinckley Township. They have three children—Harley A., Owen H. and Fred S.

**OLIVER E. ELLSWORTH**, saw-mill; Hinckley; was born in Vermont in 1833. He is the son of Walter and Ruth (Peckham) Ellsworth, natives of Vermont, and who came to Ohio in 1836. They first located in Royalton, Cuyahoga Co., on the township line joining Hinckley. In 1852, they came to Hinckley Township, and settled upon the farm where they now reside. They have had ten children—Melinda, a widow, now living in Michigan; William, who died in Royalton, aged 23 years; Oliver E., the subject of this sketch; Rhoda, living at home; Z. W., now working the old homestead; Ruth, mar-





ried and living in Cleveland; Dela, married and residing in Cuyahoga County; J. P., now living at home; Chaney, living in Cuyahoga County, and Frank, living in Cleveland. Oliver has been a resident of the township since his parents' removal there. He was married in 1858 to Miss Rosetta Keyes; she died in February, 1861, leaving one child, Fred W. He was married to his second wife, A. E. Edgerton, Oct. 1, 1865. They have four children—Elmer C., George L., Rosa R. and Lillie. Mr. Ellsworth enlisted Aug. 12, 1862, in Company A, 124th O. V. I., and served nearly three years. This regiment was in active service, and he passed through some of the most severe battles of the war, going through the whole Atlanta campaign, and escaping unhurt. He received his discharge June 9, 1865, and returned to Hinckley. Previous to going to the war, he built a saw-mill upon his land, and, since his return, has been operating it. His property is located in the northeastern part of Hinckley Township, and consists of 8 acres of land with the mill property.

Z. W. ELLSWORTH, farmer; P. O. Hinckley; a son of Walter and Ruth (Peckham) Ellsworth, was born Jan. 1, 1842, in Royalton, Cuyahoga Co., Ohio. He passed his early life upon the farm, and about two years in Michigan, previous to the war. He was married in Michigan, to Miss Lodema Lamphear, Dec. 25, 1871. He enlisted July 29, 1862, in Company A, 124th O. V. I., and was in the active service that his regiment saw, numbering some twenty-eight battles; he was wounded at Chickamauga, slightly, but not enough to disable him, and, after three years of arduous service, was discharged Jan. 9, 1865. In 1867, he returned to Michigan, and resided there about nine years, at the end of which time, he returned to Hinckley, and is now working the old homestead. The farm consists of 100 acres of good improved land, and is situated about three and a half miles northeast of Hinckley Center. He has one child, Jarella, a girl, born May 8, 1879.

DR. G. S. GILLET, Hinckley Center; was born in Eaton, Lorain Co., Ohio, March 7, 1841. His early life was passed in that county, and his education commenced in the common schools. He learned the carpenter's and joiner's trade when a youth, and, as he grew older, worked at his trade in the summer and taught school in the winter. He then went to Oberlin and at-

tended school there for several terms, and then, having decided upon the practice of medicine, went to Plymouth, Ohio, and entered the office of Drs. Tucker & Sykes. He also attended lectures at the Cleveland Medical College during the sessions of 1864-65 and 1866-67, and, at the end of these terms, he graduated and commenced the practice of medicine in Hinckley Center, in 1867, at which place he has been in active practice up to the present time, being the only practicing physician in the township until 1880. He was married in Milwaukee, Wis., to Miss Rachel Baldwick, Jan. 9, 1868. Her parents were natives of England, and came to America in 1847, first locating in New York, and afterward in Wisconsin. They have had the following children—David, Ada, deceased; Lida, Reuel S. and Ralph. Mr. and Mrs. Gillet are members of the Church of Christ, of Hinckley, and have always taken an active interest in the affairs of the church, Mr. Gillet having been an Elder during the past ten years. Though a young man, he has had an extensive experience in the practice of his profession. One of the most noteworthy cases coming under his professional skill, was a compound comminuted fracture of the skull, the subject being the doctor's son, a bright lad, who had been kicked on the head by a horse Nov. 12, 1879. The boy, David N. Gillet, aged 10 years, received the kick on the right temple, and, by actual measurement, four and one-half inches of skull bone were removed. The stroke was so severe as to have loosened the cranial sutures in the region of the removed skull segments, and lacerate the inclosing brain membranes by slivers of bone which penetrated the anterior lobe of the cerebrum, causing an ounce or more of brain to escape. No signs of consciousness were shown until the end of four days, and no certain signs until six days had elapsed. Two weeks passed away before the patient was sufficiently recovered to know what had happened. Four days after the accident, fungus of the brain set in, and, at the end of a week, the growth was as large as a hen's egg. An eminent surgeon of the county was called in for consultation and assistance, and, after the wound had been dressed, gave as his professional opinion that the boy could not possibly recover. But Dr. Gillet, with a father's love to actuate him, refused to believe that there was no hope, and immediately employed his utmost skill and at-



tention to save the child. A different mode of treatment was adopted than the one laid down in the books, and, at the end of two weeks of incessant care and sleepless anxiety, the devotion of the father was repaid by the gradual recovery of the son; it was five weeks before the boy was sufficiently recovered to be removed home. The recovery was one of the most remarkable ever occurring in the field of surgery, and reflects high honor on the professional skill of Dr. Gillet. No effect of the accident can be seen upon the boy, who is as bright and intelligent as though nothing had happened. Dr. Gillet, since February of 1880, has devoted part of his time to ministerial duties, a movement he has long contemplated, and which he expects to continue. If in the future he discontinues the practice of medicine, as he at present contemplates, he intends to devote his whole time to preaching the Word of God.

JOSEPH GOUCH, farmer; P. O. West Richfield; is a native of New England, and was born in Northampton, Mass., in 1821. He is a son of Joseph and Keziah (Alvord) Gouch, natives of New England. They were neighbors of Judge Hinckley, in Massachusetts, and received from him the first deed of land given in the township of Hinckley. They located in Hinckley in 1875, on the farm where Joseph now resides. With the exception of eight years' residence in Berea, where he removed to give his children the advantages of these schools, he has always been a resident of Hinckley and of the old homestead first settled upon by his parents; his farm consists of 88 acres of land, 20 acres of which is woodland, which contains a great number of sugar maples, from which he makes annually about 1,000 pounds of sugar. He also makes a specialty of fruit, and has taken a great many prizes on specimens of peaches and pears, having at one time, seventy-five different varieties of pears. He has given considerable attention to small fruits, which have proven generally profitable. He was united in marriage, in 1842, to Miss Charlotte C. Culver, of Rochester, N. Y. Their union has been blessed with eight children—Frederick; he enlisted in the 41st O. V. I., commanded by Col. Hazen; he served for two years in all the engagements of his regiment. At the battle of Stone River he waded the river and lying down went to sleep; when found, his clothes were frozen upon him, and he was taken

to the hospital, but his constitution had become so weakened by previous disease that he died April 20, 1863. He entered the service as a private and was distinguished for his bravery and daring in the last battle, for which, had he lived, he would have been promoted to Second Lieutenant, although at the time of his death he was but 19 years old. From the letters received by the bereaved mother, from his Colonel and the officers and commander of his regiment, it appeared he was a favorite of the whole regiment, and his death was deplored by them all. Frank A., also a volunteer in the service; he now resides in Hinckley Township; Norman, living in Cleveland; George L., Lyman deceased, Florence J., Charlotte and James, who died in Berea, aged 12 years.

WILLIAM HEACOX, farmer; P. O. Brunswick. Mr. Heacox is a native of Connecticut, and was born in Litchfield Co., March 29, 1800. His parents were Harvey and Elizabeth (Newton) Heacox, who were also natives of Connecticut. His father was a sea-faring man and went to sea when he was 3 months old; he did not see him again until he was 14 years, of age; his early life, until about 15 years, was passed in Connecticut; at this time his parents removed to Ashtabula, Ohio, and he went upon the lakes, which occupation he followed nearly all the time for twenty years. In the spring of 1836, he removed to Medina Co., locating at Weymouth, at which place he bought a farm of 80 acres and a mill property; he devoted his time to farming and milling until 1868, when he removed to Hinckley Township, buying 50 acres of land, where he now resides; his farm, with the exception of 14 acres of timber, is all improved, and is located about two and one-half miles west of Hinckley Center, on the town line road. Mr. Heacox was married in 1822, to Miss Harriet Welton, also native of Connecticut; she is the daughter of Mark and Sarah (Davis) Welton, and was born June 17, 1801; she is the lineal descendant of, and the sixth generation from, John and Mary (Upson) Welton, who came from England about 1679, and located at Waterbury, Conn. Nine generations of this family have been reared in this country; they have nine children—William J., deceased; George H., deceased; Harvey F., deceased; Harriet M., married to Jehiel Squires, and living in Sharon Township; John





H., now living in Cleveland; Sarah J., married to O. W. Avery; Edward L., now living in Brunswick Township; Samuel W., deceased; Anson F., deceased. During his residence in Medina Township, Mr. Heacox served as Justice of the Peace for nine years, as Township Trustee for one term, and, since his residence in Hinckley, three terms.

G. W. HURD, farmer; P. O. Bennett's Corners; is one of the prominent farmers of Hinckley Township; he was born in Amsterdam, N. Y., May 20, 1827; his father, Hiram Hurd, was a native of Vermont, and was born Nov. 27, 1805; his mother was Louisa Sherburn; she was born Aug. 12, 1806; they emigrated to Ohio and located in Strongsville, Cuyahoga Co., about 1832, where they remained about ten years, and then removed to Bennett's Corners, where they resided until his father died, Feb. 22, 1865. His mother is still living, residing with his family. Our subject, as was the custom, remained with his parents until he attained his majority; he was united in marriage March 8, 1848, to Miss Abigail C. Brown, a daughter of John and Orrilla (Warner) Brown, who were early settlers of Hinckley Township; she was born in New York State. Mr. Hurd has, since his marriage, with the exception of one year's residence in Minnesota, always been a resident of Hinckley Township; his homestead is located on the western township line, and consists of 186 acres, which, with the exception of about 30 acres of woodland, is as fine farming land as there is in the township, presenting, with its improvements, commodious and extensive outbuildings, barns, etc., and a new and attractive residence, a picture of thrift and prosperity. Their family is as follows: Wilson H., born Dec. 15, 1848, he was married to Miss Jennie E. Pay, Sept. 25, 1870; he removed to Kansas in 1880, where he is now living engaged in farming; Clark S., born Dec. 18, 1852; he was united to Miss Josephine Olds, a daughter of M. Olds, of Hinckley Center, May 18, 1873, they are now living in Hinckley Township; Arthur E. was born Oct. 12, 1861, and Martha J., both living at home. Mr. Hurd has served the township in several offices of trust, and has taken an active interest in schools, but devotes his time principally to the cultivation and care of his extensive farm.

S. W. ISHAM, farmer; P. O. Hinckley; was born in Geauga Co., Ohio, Sept. 1, 1831. He

is the son of Truman and Matilda (Dickson) Isham, old residents of the township. He came to Hinckley Township when but 2 years old, and has resided in the township ever since. He was married, Aug. 17, 1854, to Mary McCreary, daughter of Andrew and Hannah (Truman) McCreary. He was born in Washington Co., Penn., March 16, 1798. She was a native of Seneca Co., N. Y., and was born Jan. 24, 1805. She died May 21, 1853. Mr. McCreary was one of the pioneers of Hinckley, coming there in 1829, and a resident of the township up to his death, Nov. 20, 1880. They had the following children: Sarah, born July 2, 1825, married, and living in Nebraska; Peter, born Aug. 15, 1828, deceased; Margaret, born March 17, 1830, deceased; Mary, born May 13, 1836; Eliza, born June 2, 1840, married, and living in Trumbull Co.; Emma, born Dec. 27, 1844, deceased. Mr. McCreary was married to his second wife, Louisa A. Finch, Dec. 6, 1854. She died May 6, 1880. Mr. Isham is a tinner by trade, and worked at it for ten years in Hinckley Center. He is now living on his farm, about one and a half miles north of the Center.

ELIAS KEYES, farmer; P. O. Hinckley; was born in New York in 1811. His parents were Elias and Elizabeth (Noble) Keyes, who were pioneers of Royalton, Cuyahoga Co. They located there in 1819, and were citizens of that county up to the time of their decease. Elias worked for his father, as was customary, until he was of age. In 1837 (Feb. 2), he was united in marriage to Miss Mary Ann Swift. She was born in Cecil Co., Md., March 2, 1817, and was the daughter of Richard and Letitia (Welch) Swift, who were also natives of Maryland. Her parents were old residents of Hinckley Township, coming there in 1825, where they lived the rest of their lives. They had ten children, as follows: Mary Ann Keyes; Eliza Cleveland, deceased; Martha Wait, living in Hinckley; Edward, now a resident of Michigan; Richard, accidentally shot at Hinckley; Harriet Wait, living in Hinckley Township; Henry, now living in Oberlin, Ohio; Lois Howland, residing in Michigan; Jane E. Swift, now living in Hinckley, and Frank Swift, living in Hinckley. Mr. and Mrs. Keyes moved to Royalton, and were residents of that township for seventeen years subsequent to their marriage; then came to Hinckley, and located where they



have since made their home. They have 85 acres of good improved land, and are comfortably situated in their old age. They have had the following children: Charles D., now a resident of Royalton, Cuyahoga Co. He was born Nov. 8, 1837; Melissa, born May 11, 1840, died May 22, 1842; Elizabeth, born May 6, 1842, died Jan. 16, 1880; Richard B., born April 1, 1845; he enlisted in 1864, in Co. H, 2d O. V. C.; he was wounded at the battle of Five Forks, Va., in 1865, and was discharged June, 1865; he died May 3, 1873; and Ellen R., born Dec. 28, 1853, wife of James Mattingly, now living in Hinckley.

HIRAM B. MILLER, farmer; P. O. Hinckley. One of the best-known men in Hinckley Township is Hiram B. Miller; he is a native of New York State, and was born April 3, 1807, in Ontario Co.; his parents were Lyman and Celia (Wheeler) Miller, also natives of the Empire State. While a youth, his parents removed to Henrietta, Monroe Co., where they purchased a hotel property and a farm. The hotel was known as the "Coffee House," and run by the Millers for over twenty years. Hiram was married in 1829, to Miss Maria Deming, daughter of David and Sarah (Lewis) Deming, who were residents and old settlers of Monroe Co., N. Y.; Maria was born in Massachusetts, and, at the age of 10, walked the entire distance from Massachusetts to Rochester, N. Y., at the time of her parents' emigration to Monroe Co. At the time of his marriage, Hiram had nothing to begin life with, excepting good health, energy, and a determination to succeed; thus, without a dollar of spare money, did he begin the battle of life; how well he has succeeded, the following lines will portray. In 1831, with his wife, he went to Canandaigua, N. Y., where his grandfather resided, and for two years he worked one of his farms. At the end of that time, he removed back to Henrietta, having saved about \$800 within that time; he then went to work upon his father's farm, but, after having put in the crops, finally induced his father to sell out the whole property. Ohio at this time was presenting an inviting field to emigrants, and here the Miller family came, locating in Hinckley Township, in 1833, on the western township line; here they bought, together, 650 acres; Hiram buying about 100 acres; his parents died on the old homestead after living to see

the unbroken forests blossom into fertile fields. Hiram has resided, ever since coming to the township, upon the land he purchased on first coming into the county, and which he has cleared by his own exertions; his wife died March 10, 1876; he has seven children living—Cordelia M. Arethusa H. Sherman L. Henrietta, Betsey A., Frank D. and Harvey T. Frank D. was in the service, belonging to 150th O. N. G., serving 100 days. Harvey T., was in Barber Sharpshooters, and served all through the war. Mr. Miller has been one of the foremost men in the township upon educational matters, always taking an active interest; he has also been an efficient worker in the temperance cause; he is a member of Meridian Sun Lodge, No. 266, A., F. & A. M., of Richfield. Prior to the war he gained an extended reputation from his prominent connection with the underground railroad. Even before the enactment of the fugitive slave law, in 1850, he had deemed it his religious duty to use his best efforts in aiding runaway slaves to escape. But, upon the passage of that law, believing as he did, that Divine approval would sanction its violation and avoidance, he made it a part of his religious duty to assist the frightened and fleeing slaves to Canada. Some residents in his neighborhood were hostile to his movements of humanity, and often sought to discover slaves in his care, in hopes of getting the promised reward; but no runaway who sought his protection was ever captured. "Why," said he, "Mr. Reporter, I've had as high as five poor runaways eating at my table at one time, for each of whom a reward of \$500 was offered. One day, while moving in the field, suddenly a gigantic negro rose from the grass in front of me and said: 'Oh, Massa, can ye tell me whar 'Nigger' Miller lives?' 'Why bless your soul, you poor fellow,' said I, 'I'm 'Nigger' Miller.' 'Oh Massa Miller,' exclaimed the delighted slave, while his dark face lighted with joy, 'you look better to me than money.'" It is needless to say that the runaway reached Canada. In company with Joe Mason, a gifted colored man, Mr. Miller began lecturing in schoolhouses and barns in this and adjoining counties. He was announced to lecture at his home schoolhouse, but a neighbor was determined that he should not do it. In an altercation at the house, the neighbor seized Mr. Miller by the throat, threw him with great force on





the floor, cutting an ugly wound on his head, from which the blood flowed in streams down his neck. Money was offered to repair the injury, but Mr. Miller nobly refused, saying that money was not what was wanted, that the sin of slavery and the irreparable wrong done the poor slave was what he wished every one to seriously consider. Scores of instances can be mentioned, but these will suffice. Mr. Miller, for his noble efforts, deserves to be classed with such men as "Old" John Brown, Owen Lovejoy, and others, who fought for years against the degrading and cruel influences of slavery.

JOHN MUSSER, retired farmer; P. O. Hinckley Center. Mr. Musser was born in Trumbull Co., Ohio, Nov. 9, 1814. He is the son of David and Polly (Reed) Musser, who were natives of Pennsylvania and came to Trumbull Co. in 1813. In 1840, they removed to Norton, Summit Co., where they remained until their deaths. Mr. Musser's early life was passed in Trumbull Co., where he learned the carpenter and joiner's trade, which occupation he followed until about 30 years of age. Aug. 12, 1843, he was married to Esther F. Canfield; her father, William, was a native of Litchfield Co., Conn., and her mother, Submit (Post), a native of West Hampton, Mass. They came to Summit Co. in 1817, and lived there all of their lives, her father dying in 1852, and mother in 1867. After his marriage, Mr. M. went to Huron Co., and worked at his trade for one year, at the end of which time he moved back to Summit Co., buying a farm of 50 acres and working it about four years. He then came to Hinckley Township, April, 1851, and bought a farm of 110 acres, located in the southern part of the township. He remained upon this place until 1876, when he sold out and bought 25 acres about one-fourth of a mile north of the Center, where he now resides. They have had four children—Daniel O., born June 27, 1844; he was married September 1863, to Nancy M. Wait, daughter of John and Martha (Swift) Wait, residents of Hinckley Township, and is living about one and one-half miles west of Hinckley Center. He enlisted in 1864, in Co. D, 178th O. V. I., and was out until the close of the war; Florence, born October, 1848, died March 17, 1852; William A., born Jan. 27, 1853, now living in Hinckley Township; Ida A., born June 8, 1857, married

to William Isham and living in Hinckley Center. Mr. Musser and wife are members of the Disciples' Church of Hinckley Center.

SOLOMON G. NEWTON, deceased, was born in Ontario Co., N. Y., Sept. 5, 1825; he was a son of Mathew and Relief (Straight) Newton, old residents of Granger Township. Our subject came with his parents to Granger Township when he was quite young, and where his early life was passed. He was married Jan. 4, 1849, to Miss Sarah A. Oviatt. She was born in Trumbull Co., Ohio, Jan. 4, 1827; her parents were Stephen and Prudence (Davidson) Oviatt, pioneers of Wayne Co., where her father died; her mother subsequently moved to Hinckley Township, Medina Co., where Sarah was married. Since their marriage they resided most of the time in Hinckley Township. In April, 1863, they removed to the southern portion of the township, purchasing a farm which consisted of about 100 acres; here Solomon died Nov. 6, 1878. His wife and family still reside upon the old homestead. Mr. Newton was a member of the Baptist Church, and had always been an earnest and active worker in the church and Sabbath school; his earnest Christian life and the honorable and upright manner which characterize all his dealings, make his death deplored by all who knew him. The children are as follows: James P. was born in Hinckley Township, in June, 1853, and lived with his parents until he attained his majority; he was married Feb. 28, 1875, to Miss Rowena Morris; her father, George Morris, was an old resident of Granger Township; her mother was Rebecca Waltman; she also was an early resident of the county; they have two children—Earnest J. and Minnie. James now resides in East Cleveland, where he is engaged in raising fruit and gardening. Gertrude I. deceased, May, Allie R., Stephen M., Gertie S. and Dell. Mrs. Newton and the four elder children are members of the Baptist Church. His family will cherish through their lives, with loving regret, the memory of the devotion and goodness of the husband and father.

M. OLDS, retired engineer, Hinckley Center; is the son of Rufus and Abigail (Kent) Olds, natives of New York State, who came to Ohio in 1836, locating in Royalton, Cuyahoga Co. They were residents of the county, where they settled, up to their deaths. His father died in Ft. Wayne, Ind., in 1838, and his mother in



1848, at Royalton. Our subject was born in Cayuga Co., N. Y., Feb. 22, 1825, and came to Ohio with his parents. He worked on the farm for a number of years, and then, at the age of 16, went to Cleveland, and commenced learning his trade at the Cuyahoga Steam Furnace Company's works; he remained with them about two years. He was married, in 1850, to Miss Amelia Marcellus, daughter of John and Esther (Hall) Marcellus, pioneers of Cuyahoga Co., and residents of Royalton Township. Mr. Olds came to Hinckley Township in 1856, and bought the old Wetmore saw and grist mills, which he ran for two years and then sold out. He built (in 1857-58) the first steam grist-mill in the township. In 1859, he went to the Lake Superior country, and had the management of building a large lumber mill, taking charge of the whole work until the year was out. Returning to Hinckley, again went into the milling business, which he continued for two years, and then bought an interest in the Durham Foundry. In September, 1862, he responded to the call of Gov. Tod to repel an attack upon Covington and Cincinnati; 16,000 men responded; they were known as the "Squirrel Hunters." Upon his return to Hinckley, within a few days, he was drafted. He went to Camp Cleveland, where he procured a substitute; he watched the course of his substitute, and finally learned he was killed at Chickamauga. He immediately determined to try it himself, and within a few days he enlisted, at Wooster, Ohio, as a private in Co. E, 1st Ohio Light Artillery, and was immediately sent to the front, joining his battery on the Tennessee River. In the spring of 1864, was detailed to go on the gunboat fleet of the Upper Tennessee, as engineer. He placed the engine in the gunboat General Sherman, and remained with the fleet until July, and then joined his battery at Bridgeport, Ala.; he remained with it until the close of the war. He was in the siege and battle of Nashville, which lasted for sixteen days, a heavy artillery fire being waged by both sides every day. He was mustered out July 17, 1865. Upon his return home, he built a tin-shop in Hinckley, and ran it for one year, then bought a saw-mill, which he ran about a year. In 1868, he went to Sand Lake, Mich., and built several saw-mills for Capt. Small. In 1869, went to Missouri, and had charge of clearing out the Buckeye copper mine; returned to Hinckley, and bought a saw-

mill at Bennett's Corners, which he ran for about one year. In 1873, he removed with his family to Marquette City, Mich., and had charge of the city water works for one year, and while there lost his right hand. The next year, he took the contract for supplying the city with water, and, at the expiration of his contract, on account of his health, returned to Hinckley Center, and bought the old Wetmore place, where he at present resides. He has added several pieces of land to the original purchase, until he has about 80 acres of improved land, which is worked by his son-in-law, Mr. Olds having retired from active business, only doing some fire insurance business to occupy part of his leisure hours. Mr. and Mrs. Olds have had six children—Clayton, died at the age of 21; Willie, aged 19, at Marquette City; Josephine Hurd, living in Hinckley Township; Frank and Carrie, twins; Carrie, married to John Wyman, and living in Hinckley Center; and Frederick, living at home. Mr. Olds is a member of Hinckley Lodge, No. 304, I. O. O. F.

NATHANIEL PORTER, farmer; P. O. West Richfield. New York has furnished the majority of the pioneers of Hinckley Township, and, in Schoharie Co., Sept. 7, 1815, our subject was born. His father, Samuel Porter, was also a native of that State, and was born in Albany Co., Aug. 4, 1796. His parents removed to Schoharie Co. when Samuel was but 4 years old, locating in Broome Township. Here he passed his early life, and was united in marriage to Miss Rebecca Jacobs. She was a native of New York, and was born December, 1796. After remaining at his father's house until the spring of 1818, they started for Ohio with all their worldly effects in a wagon which was drawn by a yoke of oxen. After a month's journey, they finally reached Richfield (now Summit Co.), where they first located, remaining there until the spring of 1825, when they removed to Hinckley Township, locating upon the "ridge." Here the worthy couple remained until they were called to their heavenly home. He died June 6, 1848, and his wife, at the home of her son Nathaniel, May 10, 1869. Their children are as follows: Nathaniel, Almira, deceased. Rev. Joseph Porter, a minister of the Methodist Church, now a resident of Steuben Co., Ind.; he published, some years ago, a small volume relating the life of his father; it is a most interesting work, giving





his pioneer life and Christian experience; Olive S., deceased, and Marietta, deceased. Nathaniel was about 10 years of age when his parents came to Hinckley, and he has been a resident of the township ever since, following the occupation of a farmer. Nov. 3, 1873, he bought a small piece of land where he now resides. He was married, November, 1837, to Almira Brown. She died May 5, 1848, leaving one child—Julia J., now the wife of H. W. Davis, Deputy Sheriff of Grand Rapids, Mich. Mr. Porter was married to a second wife, Sarah Ann Crofoot (widow of Cyretus Crofoot, a resident of Brunswick Township), Nov. 19, 1848. Her maiden name was Sarah A. Brown. She was a daughter of John and Orella (Warner) Brown, old residents of the county, who located in Hinckley in 1829. She was born in Schoharie Co., N. Y., Jan. 23, 1818. At the time of her marriage with Mr. Porter, she had three boys—Levi L., Joseph J. and Lewis L., each of whom died while in the service of his country. Levi and Joseph enlisted, and, while in service in Missouri, both contracted diseases which resulted fatally, Joseph dying Nov. 16, 1861, and his brother Levi Nov. 28, 1861. Lewis L. enlisted to guard prisoners at Camp Douglas, and died from disease contracted while on duty, Sept. 14, 1862. Mr. and Mrs. Porter have two children—Sanford P., married and residing in Richfield, Summit Co., and Emma V., living at home. Mr. Porter has been a resident of the township for nearly threescore years, and has been closely identified with the growth and development of this part of the county, and is one of its most valued citizens. In religious belief, with his wife, is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He is a man of generous impulses, a friend to the poor, and, although assailed frequently by misfortune, has always been disposed to look upon life's bright side. He is intelligent, social and genial in his manner, and a thorough Christian gentleman. He has been honored with many offices of trust by his townsmen, and is now serving his third term as Justice of the Peace.

N. W. PEEBLES, farmer; P. O. Brunswick, was born in Otsego Co., N. Y., July 21, 1828; he is a son of John W. and Eliza A. (Eaton) Peebles, and came with his parents to Hinckley Township, when they removed there from New York State in 1836. He remained at

home until 20 years old, when he went to Brunswick and entered a machine-shop to learn that trade; he worked in all about nine years at that calling, and then traveled in the patent-right business for some six years; he then entered the employ of the King Iron Bridge Co., of Cleveland, as traveling salesman, and was connected with that company eleven years. Since that time he has been back upon the old homestead, having bought out the heirs of the estate, and is now engaged in farming; he has 130 acres in Hinckley and about 35 acres in Brunswick Township. His land lies on the western town line road, and consists of as good land as there is in the township. He was united in marriage, July 1, 1857, to Miss Polly A. Jenkins, a daughter of Solomon and Margaret (North) Jenkins. They have three children—Frank W., Ida Wait and Alice. Mr. Peebles has served the township in various offices, as Trustee and also as Assessor, his active business life for so many years having adapted him to discharge any office with ability. In educational matters, he has taken a very active interest, serving as a member of the Board of Education. The district in which he resides now ranks as the second in interest in the township. Mr. Peebles has two brothers and two sisters living, and a brother deceased, as follows: John H. (see biography); Jane A. Chidsey, married and living in Hinckley Township; Rensselaer R., a dentist living in Cleveland, and Elizabeth A. Card, living in Cleveland. William H. died at the age of 33 years in Hinckley Township.

JOHN H. PEEBLES, farmer; P. O. Hinckley. John H. Peebles, the subject of this sketch, was born in Otsego Co., N. Y., in 1823. His father was John W. Peebles, a native of Ireland; he was born May 15, 1797, and his mother was Eliza Eaton, a native of Cooperstown, N. Y.; she was born March 26, 1801. They came to Hinckley Township from New York State in 1836, and always resided there; he died May 1, 1879, and his wife followed Jan. 16, 1880. John H. was 13 years old when his parents came to this county, and he worked upon his father's farm until he was 21. In 1845, his father gave him 50 acres of land, where he now resides. Since that he has added several pieces of land to his possessions, until at present he has over 300 acres. He was married August, 1854, to Miss Parmelia Johnson.



daughter of Sherman and Anna (Patterson) Johnson, who came to Hinckley Township in the spring of 1836; he was a native of Connecticut and was born Nov. 30, 1798; his wife was a native of New York, and was born July 3, 1797; died in Hinckley Township May, 1867; he died September, 1880, in Michigan. The children are Hannah, married and living in Illinois; Parmelia, wife of John H. Peebles; Erastus, now living in Hinckley Township; William A., a resident of Granger Township, died Dec. 18, 1873; Sherman, now living in Royalton, Cuyahoga Co., and Elizabeth, married and living in Minnesota. Mr. and Mrs. Peebles have but two children—Francis A. and William. Mr. Peebles has served one term as township Supervisor. His land is nearly all improved, and devoted chiefly to the raising of grain. He has one brother, Nathaniel, living on the old homestead.

DANIEL SEARLES, farmer; P. O. West Richfield; is a son of Daniel and Phoebe (Fisher) Searles, natives of New York, and pioneers of Hinckley Township, locating there in the fall of 1833. They bought 600 acres of land on their arrival and were residents of the township up to their deaths. He died Aug. 28, 1854, and his wife, May 5, 1861. Daniel remained at home until he was 23 years of age. He was married Sept. 6, 1837, to Mary Ann Halsted, daughter of James and Phoebe Halsted, pioneers of Hinckley; she died in 1839, leaving a son, Edwin, ten months old. He is married and living in Hinckley. Sept. 10, 1840, Mr. Searles was again married, to Miss Sally Ann Searles, of Montville Township. They had three children—Henry, married and living in Richfield, Summit County; Adeline A. Damon, who died in 1878, and Hattie J. Eastwood, living with parents. Mr. Searles has followed farming all his life. In 1852, he came back to the old homestead to work the land, and to take care of his parents in their old age, where he has since resided. He has divided up his land with his children, until he has now but 53 acres. He has served the township as Trustee, and has taken an active interest in the schools, having been School Director several terms.

HENRY SYLVESTER, farmer; P. O. Weymouth; is a son of Francis and Cynthia (Hatch) Sylvester, who are prominent in the early history of Granger Township. Henry was born

in Massachusetts Aug. 20, 1824, and was about 14 years of age at the time of his parents' removal to Ohio. His early life was passed in Granger Township at farming, which pursuit he has followed all his life. He was united in marriage in August, 1849, to Miss Mary Ganyard, a daughter of James Ganyard, pioneer of Granger, and a prominent citizen of the early days of the township. Mary was born in Granger Township, April, 1829. They have three children—Jay, Belle and Helen; after his marriage, Mr. S. engaged in farming for himself and was a resident of Granger Township until 1864, he then removed to Medina Township, where he resided for fourteen years. In April, 1878, he bought the farm in Hinckley Township, where he at present is located; his farm consists of 87 acres of improved land, and is the southwestern farm in the township. Mr. S. is an intelligent and respected citizen of the county.

VAN DEUSEN FAMILY, Hinckley. Andrew and Orpha Joyner Van Deusen were natives of Massachusetts. He was born Sept. 5, 1794, and his wife, Aug. 2, 1796. They were married Sept. 20, 1815, in New York State, and, as they were living in Massachusetts near the New York line, in order to avoid being published—as was the custom in Massachusetts—they crossed the line and were united, without going through so many forms as were necessary in Massachusetts. In 1817, they removed to New York State, settling near Dunkirk, which was, at that time, a wilderness, up to within a mile of the city. Here they remained for a period of about eleven years, and then decided to remove still further West, and the tide of emigration drifted them to Hinckley Township. In 1828, they bought a piece of land upon the "Ridge," containing about 30 acres, and commenced to clear it up; 90 acres more were added to their farm in time, and, after eight years' residence there, traded for a saw-mill, on Rocky River, and about 30 acres of land. Here they resided until the husband's death, which occurred in 1841. Mrs. Van Deusen, whose portrait appears in this work, was left, by the death of her husband, with no property and no means of support, except through her own efforts; she went to work with energy and perseverance, and, by her own individual efforts, paid for 30 acres of land and a comfortable dwelling-house, where she now





resides, over 80 years of age and infirm in body; but, mentally, she is as bright and cheerful as though her life was new, and, in the evening of her days, sits in comfort in a home her own hands has reared, surrounded by prosperous children. Her children are as follows: Irena A. West, born July 21, 1817; Roe G., born April 27, 1820, in State of New York, came with parents to Hinckley Township, and remained there until the fall of 1859, when he removed to Shiawassee Co., Mich., where he owns about 500 acres of land, and is carrying on farming on a large scale; he was married to Susannah Foss, July 10, 1845. Rush L., born Aug. 3, 1823.

RUSH L. VAN DEUSEN, farmer; P. O. Hinckley; whose portrait appears in this book, was born Aug. 3, 1823, in New York; he came with his parents to Hinckley, and has, since that time, been a citizen of the Township; he was 14 years of age at the death of his father, and, in connection with his brother, ran the mill until he was about 21 years old; at that time, he bought 21 acres of land on Rock River, and in that humble way commenced life for himself. By energy and perseverance he added year by year small pieces of land to his tract, until at present he has 435 acres; he commenced the purchase of his land at about \$10 per acre, and has paid up as high as \$75 per acre; he makes a specialty of dairying, and is recognized as the foremost man of the county in this line, and has at present sixty cows; he has conducted a cheese factory, also, for the past nine years; his land is mostly improved, portions of which is finely adapted for stock, lying along the Rocky River, and about one-half mile east of Hinckley Center. Mr. Van Deusen was married, Jan. 30, 1844, to Miss Maria Damon, daughter of Nathan and Hannah (Shaw) Damon, who were pioneers of Hinckley; she was born June 23, 1822, in Chesterfield, Mass. They have had ten children—Edmund A., born Oct. 30, 1844, died Nov. 30, 1851; Newman L., born Feb. 19, 1847, he was married Dec. 23, 1876, to Miss Emma Barber, and is living on his father's farm; Dexter N., born Dec. 27, 1848, and married Miss Carrie Webber, daughter of R. M. Webber, of Hinckley Township; they are now living in Michigan; Byron R., born April 27, 1853, living at home; Julia J., born Feb. 15, 1851; she is married to George Proulx, and they are living in Michigan; Omar

O., born Sept. 13, 1855; he was married to Jessie Conant, daughter of Hiram Conant; they are now living in Hinckley Center; George E., born June 13, 1858, living at home; Emma M., born Nov. 23, 1862, living at home; Charles M., born March 15, 1865, also living at home; Ralph H., born June 20, 1825, in New York; he was married to Marietta Rockwell, whose parents were old settlers of Hinckley; they are now living in Shiawassee Co., where he also is farming extensively; Esther A., born Nov. 4, 1827, in New York; she was married to L. H. Van Orman, and removed to Shiawassee Co., Mich., where she died Jan. 31, 1878; Ray L., born Aug. 3, 1830, in Summit Co., Ohio; on account of his feeble health, he learned the printer's trade, and, finally, shipped on a whaler, in hopes the sea air would be of benefit to him; he was gone from home for seven years, and, as his people read no tidings from him, he was given up as lost, but he finally returned rough and rugged, entirely restored to health; he was married, in Hinckley Township, to Mary Williams, a granddaughter of Joseph Gouch, one of the pioneers of Hinckley Township; they removed to Michigan in 1861, where they now reside. Martin B., born Sept. 27, 1835, in Hinckley; he went to Iowa in 1858, and settled in Benton Co., near Laporte City; he married Harriet Treanor, daughter of George Treanor a former resident of Medina Co.; he is an extensive farmer there, owning about 500 acres.

DON C. VAN DEUSEN, farmer; P. O. Hinckley; born in Hinckley Township March 4, 1829; he was married, Oct. 29, 1864, to Miss Ella Nichols, she is a daughter of Nathaniel and Dorcas Nichols, and was born in New York State Sept. 25, 1843. Don enlisted, in the fall of 1861, in the 42d O. V. I. Co. K, and was in the active service of his regiment until May 20, 1863, when in the battle of Vicksburg he received a gunshot wound in his right arm, which resulted in its amputation; he was discharged from the service in consequence, Sept. 29, 1863. Returning to Hinckley, he resumed his occupation as a farmer. In 1879, he traded with Robert Whip for the farm on which he now resides, consisting of 75 acres, and located two miles northwest of Hinckley Center; his family consists of two children—Linconia D., born Aug. 5, 1865, and Ruth A., born May 12, 1876. A son, Earl R., born Sept. 30, 1871, was instantly killed by the kick of a horse Jan. 20,



1878; Lawrence, an infant, deceased; Daniel D., an infant, deceased; Edmund O., died at the age of 2 years. Irena A. (Van Deusen) West, was born July 21, 1817; she was married to William K. West, March 22, 1836; he was a native of Massachusetts, and was born in Lee Sept. 4, 1812; he died Oct. 3, 1862; since his death his wife has conducted the farm, and now owns 78 acres of good improved land. Her children are as follows: George C., born December 25, 1836, was married, June 12, 1859, to Rowena Shaw, daughter of Jacob Shaw, an old resident of Hinckley; he died in Hinckley Aug. 6, 1862; Mary A., born Aug. 26, 1838, in Hinckley; she was married June 20, 1858, to Erastus Johnson, son of Sherman Johnson, one of Hinckley's pioneer settlers; they are residing in Hinckley Township; Henry O., born Nov. 15, 1840, married, May 29, 1870, Miss Lucy Wilcox, daughter of Dr. O. Wilcox; they are now living in Montville Township; Elmer A., born Nov. 10, 1844; he was married, Oct. 18, 1876, to Miss Addie Kelley, of Cleveland; they are now residing in Cleveland; Lucy L., born Nov. 27, 1848; she was united in marriage Feb. 11, 1870, to Ethan Conant, son of A. L. Conant; they are residing in Hinckley Township; Fred A., born Oct. 20, died Aug. 19, 1854; Stephen C., born Oct. 4, 1855; he was married, March 4, 1879, to Luella Bigelow, daughter of Jonathan Bigelow, an old resident of the township; Ella A., born Jan. 28, 1858, died May 6, 1861.

HIRAM WORDEN, farmer; P. O. Remson's Corners; is a native of New York State. He was born in Broome Township, Schoharie Co., Dec. 2, 1818. His parents were William L. and Polly (Mace) Worden, who were pioneers of Richfield Township, now Summit Co., settling there as early as 1819. His father died in 1821. His mother was subsequently married (about 1822) to Heman Buck. Hiram passed his early life upon the farm in Richfield. In 1841, he purchased, with a brother, 75 acres of land in Hinckley Township, where he resided until 1845. He then disposed of his property and removed to Michigan, where he remained for two years, farming; he then returned to Hinckley. In 1854, he purchased the farm where he is now living. With the exception of the two years' residence in Michigan, Mr. Worden's entire life has been passed in the neighborhood of his present home. His narration

of the deprivations and trials of the early settlers contrasts strangely with the homes and surroundings of the farmers in his vicinity of to-day, located in comfortable homes, and surrounded with most of the improvements of our modern civilization. The past, with its hardships, seems to them like some "tale that is told." Mr. Worden was united in marriage, in 1841, to Miss Betsey Gordon. She died in 1849, leaving four children—Heman D., died while in the service of his country. He enlisted in 74th Ill. V. I. in 1862, and, while in service, contracted a disease which resulted in his death on his way home, in 1863; George W., deceased; Ora H., deceased, and Elmer C., who was also in the service. He enlisted in Co. B, 189th O. V. I., and served until the close of the war. He was in service nearly a year. He is now a resident of Richfield Township, Summit Co., Ohio. Mr. Worden was married in 1851 to a second wife, Miss Melissa Bissell. She was born in Granger Township Jan. 19, 1828. Her father, Harvey Bissell, was a native of Connecticut; her mother, Matilda Jones, of New York. They located in Granger Township about 1826, remaining there up to the time of their death. Her father's occurred in May, 1842, while on a visit to Westfield Township; her mother's occurred in June, 1854. Their union has been blessed with four children, as follows: Cora L., now the wife of Constance Shaw, living in Bath, Summit Co.; Frank E., residing at home. This young man possesses talent of a high order as a sculptor. He has carved in stone several life-size busts of Sumner, Washington, Lincoln, etc., all of which show a high degree of talent. He has enjoyed no advantages of tuition, and the tools which he uses are constructed by himself. His works show a degree of finish that would compare favorably with some of the efforts of our well-known artists. Lynn and Nettie. Mr. and Mrs. Worden are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Granger.

ERASTUS WAITE, farmer; P. O. Hinckley Center. Among the pioneers of Hinckley is Erastus Waite. He is a native of Massachusetts, and was born in Franklin Co. Feb. 17, 1797. His parents were Benjamin and Polly (Mott) Waite. He was a native of Massachusetts, and his wife of Long Island. Erastus passed his early life working upon his father's farm. Upon the death of his father, which oc-





curred in 1830, he determined to come to Ohio. He arrived in Hinckley Township in 1831, and bought 76 acres of land where he has since lived. He was joined, the next year after his arrival, by a brother, two sisters and his mother. His brother located in Hinckley and died in the township. His mother lived to be nearly 90 before her decease. His sisters are married and living in the township. Mr. Waite was married, April 12, 1821, to Miss Polly Burroughs, a native of Massachusetts. She died Jan. 21, 1851. The children are as follows: George A., now living in Cleveland; Mary A. Woodley, living in Iowa; Emma I. Parish, widow, living in Cleveland; Seth A., living in Granger Township; Benjamin F., a resident of Cleveland; Charles H., died in Cleveland aged 36 years; Charlotte V., widow of Johnson Wright, now living in Iowa; Nettie E. Backus, widow, living in Cleveland; Sarah M., married to Edwin B. Wright and residing in Hinckley; Julia A., wife of Albert Hannon, of Cleveland, died in 1870; Frederick P., now a resident of Colorado. Mr. Waite was married to his second wife, Laura Ferris, widow of T. N. Ferris, November, 1852. She died in April, 1878. Mr. Waite has served the township as Treasurer for three years, and as Supervisor four terms. He is a member of the Congregational Church, of which he is Deacon.

J. M. WAIT, farmer; P. O. Hinckley; was born in Massachusetts Sept. 4, 1817. He is a son of Enos and Martha (Allis) Wait, who were also natives of Massachusetts, and who located in Hinckley Township in 1832, where they resided until their deaths; his father's occurred March 2, 1869, and his mother's Dec. 18, 1878. Four of their sons now reside in Hinckley Township, and are extensive farmers and prominent citizens, namely, John, George, Elisha and the subject of this sketch. He has been a resident of the township ever since his coming with his parents from Massachusetts. Upon attaining his majority, his father gave him 50 acres of land, located upon the western township line, where he now resides; he has at the present time 100 acres of fine improved land. He was married Feb. 17, 1841, to Miss Olive Miller; she is a native of New York, and was born in Monroe Co. Sept. 9, 1825. Her parents were Lyman and Celia (Wheeler) Miller, pio-

neers of Hinckley. Mr. and Mrs. Wait have six children, as follows: Mary, the widow of Elroy Williams; she now resides in Brunswick; Wesley, married to Miss Clarissa Collier, and a resident of Brunswick Township; Emory and Avery, living with parents; Owen, married to Miss Ida Peebles, they are living in Hinckley Township; and Sanford, living at home. Mr. Wait is an industrious and prosperous farmer, an enterprising and public-spirited citizen. He has been an active worker in the school interests of his district, and has served as Director a number of terms.

R. M. WEBBER, farmer; P. O. Hinckley; was born in Hampden Co., Mass., June 9, 1826. He is a son of Richard and Lovina (Bradway) Webber. They were natives of Massachusetts and early residents of Medina Co.; they located in Hinckley Township in 1839, and made it their home until their deaths. His father was a Wesleyan Methodist, and preached a great many funeral sermons; he was a circuit preacher for one year; he afterward united with the Protestant Methodist Church. His death occurred in 1854; his mother died Oct. 8, 1877. Our subject's early life was passed upon his father's farm. He was united in marriage Nov. 5, 1848, to Miss Mary Hogue, daughter of Joseph and Caroline (Bevarstock) Hogue, who were natives of England, and who settled in Weymouth in 1837; they soon afterward removed to Hinckley Township. He died in March, 1861. In 1863, Merrill bought his father's old farm, and worked it for several years. In 1870, he purchased the farm where he now resides; he has now, in several tracts, nearly 500 acres of land, all of which he has obtained by his own efforts. His family consists of fourteen children—Charles M., living in Medina Township; Maria J. Hoddinott, living in Michigan; Francis C., living in Hinckley Township; Joseph R., living on the old homestead; Caroline L. Van Deusen, living in Michigan; Minnie L. Fluent, living in Granger Township; Ella J., Lucy A., John A., Elizabeth I., Harriet A., Sarah L., Addie T., Frederick J., deceased. Mr. Webber has been an active worker in the educational affairs of the township, and is an esteemed member of the community in which he resides.



**MONTVILLE TOWNSHIP.**

**IRA BENNETT**, farmer; P. O. Medina; was born in Medina Co., Ohio, Wadsworth Township, July 15, 1829. His father, Timothy S. Bennett, was born about the year 1794, in Vermont, and, in 1818, came to Ohio and settled in Medina Co., where himself and two companions purchased a farm in the northeast part of Wadsworth Township. Their partnership was of short duration, each preferring to develop his own part. In 1820, he was married to Rachel Brown, who came to this State when in her youth, passing through the city of Buffalo the day after it was burnt by the British. They lived a few years at Middlebury, in Summit Co., before coming here. Mr. Bennett developed his purchase, and, years after, moved to Granger Township, where he resided the rest of his life. He died Sept. 11, 1875, and his wife March 13, 1874. Their union proved fruitful of nine children, of whom the subject is the oldest living. When 18 years of age, he began the carpenter's trade, which he followed for several years, and, Dec. 13, 1851, he started for the Pacific Slope, being lured thither by the gold excitement of that period. He passed two years there, with fair success, and then returned to his native county, where he has since followed agricultural pursuits. He was married, May 13, 1855, to Laura A., daughter of John S. and Laura E. (Parsons) Hatch. She was born April 9, 1834, in Granger Township, Medina Co. They have four children—Scott S., Grant E., Inez G. and Martha G. Both Mr. and Mrs. Bennett are members of the Christian Church at Medina. He is one of the charter members of the Patrons of Husbandry, in which he has served as Master, and is now Overseer. He has served as Trustee, and held other local offices. He is a Republican, and cast his first ballot for John P. Hale.

**WILLIAM P. CLARK**, farmer, etc.; P. O. Medina; whose portrait appears in connection with the educational history of Medina Co., was born April 9, 1820, and is a son of John and Betsey (Tyler) Clark, natives of Rutland Co., Vt., where the subject was born. His father was a manufacturer of boots, shoes and

leather, and removed to Ohio in October, 1832, locating in Medina Co., on the farm on which William P. is now living. It was all forest then, with the exception of a portion which had been "slashed," as it was termed, by the early settlers. This farm he cleared up, and soon brought to a fine state of cultivation, and lived upon it until his death, which took place in 1845. Here it was that the subject of this sketch received his first lessons in pioneer life, receiving also such education as the country at that time afforded. He commenced teaching when 19 years old, and followed the profession for many years. He kept a select school in the village of Medina, being himself the principal and owner of the institution, and keeping pace with the class of the Western Reserve College at Hudson, Ohio. In the spring of 1852, he accepted a position in the Hillsdale (Mich.) schools, which he held for two years. From there he went to Norwalk, Ohio, in 1853, remaining one year, and, in 1855, was made Principal of the Kinsman Academy, at Kinsman, Trumbull Co., Ohio. Here he remained nearly three years, when failing health compelled him to withdraw from the profession until 1871, when he again became Superintendent of the Medina Schools for one year. He was assisted, both at Hillsdale and Kinsman Academy, by his wife. He was appointed one of the School Examiners of Medina Co. soon after he began teaching in Medina, an office he held, with a few exceptions, until May, 1880. He was married, Aug. 23, 1849, to Miss Sarah G. Fenn. She was born at Nelson, Portage Co., Ohio, Aug. 26, 1822, and graduated at Mt. Holyoke Seminary, and has been a successful teacher since, as well as before, her marriage. Three children have been born to them—Anna, who died in infancy; Herbert W., who died Feb. 26, 1880, when in his 21st year, and Sarah F. Both Mr. and Mrs. Clark are members of the Congregational Church of Medina, in the Sunday School of which Mr. Clark has been Superintendent for twenty-five years. Mr. Clark was elected Surveyor of the county, an office he held two terms, having previously served as





Deputy for one term. He has also been for many years Notary Public, Township Clerk, and held other small offices. He is Republican in politics.

E. R. CULVER, farmer and school-teacher; P. O. Poe; was born in Montville Township, Medina Co., Ohio, Aug. 18, 1839. His father, Sidney Culver, was born Jan. 6, 1806, in the State of Vermont, and was son of Miles Culver, who removed to the State of Ohio as early as 1808, and settled at Middlebury, in what is now Summit Co. He served in the war of 1812. Sidney learned the trade of a stone-cutter, which he followed for a few years, when he adopted the more congenial occupation of farming. In 1832, he came into the county of Medina, and, in 1838, was married to a lady by the name of Elvira Smith, who had emigrated here a few years previous from Madison Co., N. Y. Together, Mr. and Mrs. Culver labored for many years, and had the satisfaction of seeing their efforts crowned with success, owning a pleasant property in Montville Township. He died March 5, 1867, and his wife the 29th of May, 1880. The subject of this sketch received a good common-school education, which was improved by an attendance at the Medina High School, and, when 19 years old, he commenced teaching, a vocation for which he seems well adapted, and in which he has been eminently successful. Reared to the pursuit of farming, he superintends the farm, and teaches during the winter season. He was married, April 5, 1861, to Mary, daughter of John and Sarah Landes. She was born Aug. 18, 1844, in Montgomery Co., Penn., and came to Ohio when in her childhood. She is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mr. Culver has held various township offices, and in 1880 was Land Appraiser of Montville Township. He has always been identified with the Republican party, and is one of the most influential and enterprising citizens in this part of the county.

LYSANDER FRIZZELL, farmer; P. O. Sharon; was born in Franklin Co., Mass., Dec. 22, 1807. His father, Elijah Frizzell, was a farmer by pursuit; he married a Miss Mary Rowley, of Massachusetts; about the year 1822, he moved into the State of Vermont, where he passed the rest of his life, and died in 1862, while in the State of Illinois visiting one of his sons. His wife died a few years

later in Vermont. When 12 years of age, Lysander went to live with a farmer in the Connecticut Valley, remaining until of age, when he commenced doing for himself. For two years he farmed in that State, and then went to Vermont, where he bought a farm; he remained there only a short time, however, before he sold, and, in 1834, emigrated to Ohio and settled in the county of Medina, where he has since lived; he was married, Nov. 1, 1835, to Harriet Robinson, who came to Vermont from Ireland, when yet in her childhood, and thence to Medina Co., a short time previous to her marriage. Mr. Frizzell first settled in Wadsworth Township, but, in the spring of 1837, he moved to where he now lives, the farm at that time being mostly forest land. By many years of patient industry, he brought this to its present productive and valuable state, although at times he came near yielding to discouragements; he has been careful in his investments, and erected suitable and convenient buildings many years ago. His companion departed this life May 31, 1878, their union having been blessed with six children, viz.: Theresa J., Mary E., Silva J., Harrison G., Henry G. and James R. The two eldest sons entered the army, serving in the 6th Ohio Battery, one of whom surrendered his life to the cause of his country. All grew to maturity except the youngest daughter, although none are living except the two youngest sons, both of whom are married and living in this county, James being on the old homestead. He has served as Trustee, and is a Republican.

L. & A. FRETZ, farmers and saw-millers; P. O. Medina; are among the enterprising and prominent citizens of Montville Township, and have materially assisted in developing and improving this part of the county. They are sons of Samuel and Elizabeth Fretz, both of whom were natives of Bucks Co., Penn., the father being born Jan. 17, 1796, and the mother April 26, 1806. He was a miller by trade, and in 1832, moved to Clinton, N. J., where he lived seventeen years, and then came to Ohio, locating at Wadsworth, in Medina Co. The following year, he bought the mill property in Montville, to which he removed, conducting the same in company with his sons until his death, which occurred April 6, 1852. The three sons, Lewis, Anthony and Mahlon S., assumed control, and the following March the mill



burned down, being a total loss. They re-built it better than ever, and were doing a good business, when the blast of war was heard in the land. Lewis captained the first company raised in Medina Co. The other two entered the 12th Ill. V. I., as musicians, and, while gone, Mahlon contracted a disease, from which he died soon after his return, leaving one child named Mahlon D. The last company raised in the county, the 166th O. N. G., Co. E, also contained the two oldest sons, Anthony as chief musician, and Lewis as 1st Lieutenant, with a Captain's duties, that officer being unfit for service. Lewis was born Dec. 26, 1826; has served as Trustee, Township Clerk, and has been Justice of the Peace since 1875; he is a member of the Presbyterian Church and also of the Masonic order. Anthony was born Jan. 5, 1829; was married in 1855, to Emily, daughter of Chester Hosmer; she died soon after, leaving one child, Ida E., now the wife of Melvin Flickinger. He was again married, Sept. 19, 1862, to Hannah A., daughter of William and Rebecca (Smith) Crawford; she was born Sept. 9, 1841, in Guilford Township. This union has been blessed with one child, Clara W., born Oct. 3, 1870. Mr. and Mrs. Fretz are members of the Presbyterian Church. Both Lewis and Anthony are Democrats.

JACOB GISH, farmer and stock-raiser; P. O. Medina; was born in Milton Township, Wayne Co., Ohio, April 13, 1833; is a son of Jacob and Fannie (Shank) Gish, both of whom were natives of Lancaster Co., Penn. His father was a miller by trade, but relinquished it for the pursuit of farming, when married. He removed to Ohio in 1831, and made his first permanent settlement in Wayne Co., securing a tract of forest land in Milton Township, that was traversed by the River Styx. This he rendered valuable and productive, by years of patient labor and care. He died June 26, 1864, in his 63d year, and his companion is still living on the old homestead, being in her 74th year. The subject is the oldest but one of a family of eight children, and his educational privileges were quite poor, the greater part of his time being required on the farm. When of age, he went into the West, passing one year in Iowa, and has since been one of the prominent farmers of this vicinity. His marriage was celebrated Dec. 17, 1857, Miss Leah Schrautz becoming his wife. She was born April 24,

1838, in Stark Co., Ohio. Her parents, Samuel and Catharine (Holl) Schrautz, coming there from Lancaster Co., Penn., in 1835. Her father died January 2, 1850, and her mother September 5, the same year. After the death of her parents, she lived with a sister in Wayne Co., from which place she was married. Mr. Gish has resided in Medina Co. since his marriage, where he owns one of the most pleasant and attractive homes in the township. He has paid some attention to the improvement of stock in this county, especially of cattle, and ranks among the enterprising citizens. By their union, three children have been born—Arba A., born Feb. 10, 1859; Laura L., born May 31, 1862; and Etha A., born April 5, 1867. Mr. Gish is a Republican.

MOSES HILL, farmer; P. O. Medina. Among the farmers of Montville Township, who have been successful and secured a competency of "this world's goods" by their industry and diligence, we mention the family of Moses Hill. He was born in Orange Co., Vt., Sept. 24, 1812, and is a son of Moses Hill, Sr., who came there from Connecticut, and married Hannah Vincent. He was a farmer by pursuit, and in 1816 removed to Monroe Co., N. Y., where he remained until the latter part of the year 1833, when he came to Medina Co., Ohio. Here he passed the rest of his life, dying in November, 1856, in his 90th year, having voted first for Gen. Washington. His companion died in August, 1845. The subject of this sketch has always been a farmer, and May 6, 1841, was married to Martha S. Hemingway. She was born in this county, Wadsworth Township, Nov. 6, 1821. Her father, Luther Hemingway, was born in Worcester Co., Mass., in 1785, and was an officer under Gen. Scott in the war of 1812, being at Lundy's Lane and many other engagements. He was a miller by trade, and, coming West for the purpose of locating his claim to a farm, stopped to work in a mill in Geauga Co., Ohio. While there, he was married Dec. 5, 1816, to Mary Burroughs. She was born in Hampshire Co., Mass., Oct. 20, 1792, and came to Ohio in the year 1812. In 1818, Mr. Hemingway came to Medina Co. and built the first mill in Wadsworth Township, besides clearing a farm. He died in April, 1845, and his companion is now living with her daughter, Mrs. Hill. Mr. Hill developed a farm in this township, and his years of labor have been well rewarded. Their union





has been fruitful of three children, the eldest dying in infancy : those living are Luther H. and Winthrop. The elder was attending school at Oberlin when Morgan invaded Ohio ; he dropped his studies for the life of a soldier, and was discharged at the end of seven months, only to again re-enlist as a teamster. Since the close of the war he has been roaming through the Western States and Territories. The other son served in the O. N. G., is married and settled near the old home. Mr. Hill was a Democrat in early life, but left that party in 1840, and has since been identified with the opposition.

LYMAN KENNEDY, farmer ; P. O. Medina ; is one of the leading farmers of the township in which he has passed the greater part of his life, and has devoted his most useful years toward her improvement. He was born Sept. 1, 1821, in Ontario, Canada, about fourteen miles from the city of Toronto. His father, Samuel Kennedy, son of John Kennedy, one of the soldiers of the Revolution, was a native of York State, and was there married to Eleanor Press. He soon after moved to Canada, where he remained until the spring of 1838, when he came to Medina Co., Ohio, securing a piece of comparatively new land, in Montville Township, south of Medina, which he and his sons developed. He died in July, 1861, and his wife in the year 1858. The subject of this sketch passed the early part of his life on his father's farm, and in 1845 commenced doing for himself. He clerked in a grocery for one year, and then for two years was clerk of the American House at Medina. He has since been one of the tillers of the soil of this county, where he owns a tasty and well-improved farm. He was married Nov. 10, 1847, to Ursula, daughter of Michael and Catharine Gramer. She was born in Wittenburg, Germany, July 20, 1827, and accompanied her parents to America, when in her childhood. They located in Medina Co., Ohio, where the father soon after died, and the mother in January, 1877. Their union has been blessed with two children—Rebecca U., now the wife of William H. Zimmerman, and Thomas A., who died June 15, 1873, when in his 22d year. The daughter taught school nine terms before her marriage. Mrs. Kennedy is a member of the Congregational Church at Medina. He has served as Treasurer of the township, being identified with the Republican party.

CYRUS KING, farmer ; P. O. Medina ; was

born in Pompey, N. Y., Sept. 30, 1820, son of Joel and Esther (Matteson) King, both of whom were natives of Rhode Island. His father was Captain of a militia company in the war of 1812, and, throughout the rest of his life, was known as "Captain King." He was a carpenter by trade ; passed the rest of his life a resident of the Empire State, dying in 1866, in his 83d year. His companion passed away many years previous. Cyrus received a good common-school education, and, when 19 years of age, commenced teaching school, working at the carpenter's trade during the summer. He came to Ohio in 1842, and has ever since been a resident of Medina County. He was married, March 21, 1848, to Harriet O. Bennett, of Wadsworth Township. She died in June, 1852, leaving one child, Edmund B. June 4, 1854, he was united in marriage with Climenia, youngest daughter of Deacon Pliny Porter, of Pompey, N. Y. Three children have blessed this union—Ida E., David Porter and Mary A. Mr. King has been a resident of Montville Township since 1848, where he owns a well-improved and productive farm. Each of his children has received the advantages of good schools as soon as they reached the proper age. The eldest son attended successively at Medina, Oberlin and Berea, besides a business course at Sandusky. He taught for a time, studied law, and, before his admission to the bar, was nominated for Prosecuting Attorney of Medina County. He filled the office satisfactorily for one term, and then located at Sandusky, where he has a lucrative practice. Ida E. took a full course at the Medina Normal School, taught successfully for eight years, was married Dec. 4, 1878, to Samuel M. Wolcott, and died Oct. 9, 1879, leaving one child—Ida Winnie. David entered the Ohio State University, but, owing to over-study, was obliged to abandon the course, and is now at home. The parents and daughter are members of the Christian Church at Medina. He is a Republican.

MICHAEL KAPP, farmer and stock-raiser ; P. O. Poe ; is a son of John and Elizabeth (Gish) Kapp, of Lancaster Co., Penn., and was born May 3, 1823. His father was reared in a hotel, but, on coming to maturity, adopted the pursuit of farming, and, in the spring of 1834, moved to Ohio and purchased a farm in Wayne County, that was but slightly cleared. He and sons, by years of patient



labor, rendered this productive, and valuable as well, and there he died April 29, 1852, and was followed by his companion Feb. 9, 1861. The subject of this sketch received but few advantages in early life, much of his school life being devoted to labor on the farm, their threshing, which was done in the winter season, materially affecting his attendance at school. He commenced doing for himself when of age, and, for six years, did nothing but make shingles, the hardest kind of labor. In the fall of 1850, he and his brother Martin bought the saw-mill at Steamtown, in Guilford Township, and he has since been a resident of Medina County. For two years they conducted it with fair success, and then sold out, Michael conducting a farm there which he had purchased while in the mill. Seven years later, he came to where he now lives, owning a valuable and well-managed farm. For many years, he dealt quite extensively in stock, but has recently determined to pay more attention to breeding and the care of his farm. He was married, Oct. 4, 1850, to Leah Overholt. She was born in Bucks Co., Penn., March 14, 1827, and, the year following her birth, her parents removed to this county, Wadsworth Township. By this union four children have been born, viz.: John O., born Feb. 12, 1852; Martin, born May 24, 1857; Samuel S., born Oct. 7, 1859, and Michael W., born March 13, 1866. The eldest commenced teaching when 16 years old, being two years at Chicago, where he attended a commercial school and taught also. The second son died when in his 19th year. Mrs. Kapp is a member of the Mennonite Church. He has, on three different occasions, been Assessor of the township. He has been a Republican since the war, but previously was a Democrat.

**WILLIAM L. McDONALD**, farmer; P. O. Medina; is one of the enterprising and industrious farmers of the county, and possesses a good property, on which good buildings have been erected. He was born in Jefferson Co., Ohio, Feb. 28, 1830. His father, John McDonald, was born in Lancaster Co., Penn., Dec. 17, 1793, and while yet in his youth accompanied the family on their journey to Ohio. He served in the war of 1812, under Harrison, and was married, Dec. 24, 1818, to Rachel Day, who was born June 25, 1801, in Jefferson Co., Ohio. He was a shoemaker by trade in early life, but at length relinquished it for the occupation of

farming. In the spring of 1832, he removed to Wayne County, and two years later came to Medina county, where he secured a farm of new land in Westfield Township, which he developed and rendered valuable and productive. In the spring of 1865, he sold this property and retired to the village of Seville, where he died March 9, 1867. His companion is still living, passing the greater part of her time at the homes of her children. William is the eldest son of a family of nine children, and, when 18 years of age, went to the trade of carpenter and joiner, which was his chief occupation for some fifteen years. His marriage was celebrated October 14, 1852, Miss Sarah C. Betz becoming his wife. She was born in this county, Wadsworth Township, May 3, 1832, being daughter of Abraham and Sarah (Byers) Betz, who moved to Summit County in 1847. Her mother died Feb. 13, 1873; her father Jan. 8, 1878, in Chatham Township, this county. Mr. McDonald moved to Van Wert County, in the fall of 1853, where he remained over three years, then returned to this county, where he has since lived. Their union has been blessed with four children, viz.: Myron H., born July 22, 1853; Curtis V., born May 27, 1857; Ila I., born March 9, 1859; and Rodney C., born May 25, 1863. The second child died Oct. 17, 1858; Myron is a printer by trade, married, and living at Denver, Colo., having been proprietor of the Hudson *Enterprise*, at Hudson, Ohio, before he was yet of age. Mr. McDonald entered the service, being in the 42d O. V. I., was absent nearly one year, and, during that time, participated in seven engagements. He also served in the O. N. G. Mrs. McDonald and daughter are members of the Congregational Church. He is a Republican.

**JOSEPH K. OVERHOLT**, retired farmer; P. O. River Styx; was born Feb. 3, 1804, and is a son of William and Gertrude (Kuip) Overholt, of Northampton Co., Penn. His father was a farmer by pursuit, and, when past 40 years of age, commenced preaching in the Mennonite Church, a position he occupied until his death. In 1830, he moved to Medina Co., Ohio, where he was the first minister of his denomination in the county. He died in 1838, his wife having passed away three years previous. When 16 years old, the subject of this sketch began the shoemaker's trade, which he followed ten years, and has since paid his chief attention to





agricultural pursuits, and has also been a veterinary surgeon of local prominence for some twenty-five years of his life. He was married, Oct. 15, 1829, to Margaret Angelmeyers. She was born in Bucks Co., Penn., Sept. 11, 1808, and has given birth to the following children, viz., Anna, Hannah, Mary, William H., Susannah, Margaret, Joseph A., John M. and Amelia. These children are all living in Medina Co. except two, who are residents of the State of Michigan, and all but two are married. Five of them have taught school, which speaks well for the intelligence of the family. Mr. Overholt moved to this State in a wagon, being nearly four weeks on the way, and here owns a pleasant farm of 100 acres, all of which is self-made property. Mr. and Mrs. Overholt have always been consistent members of the Mennonite Church, and all the children, except two, are members of the church, although not all of this denomination. Politically, Mr. Overholt was at first a Federalist, and voted for John Q. Adams, and has since been identified successively with the Whig and Republican parties.

S. M. THAYER, farmer; P. O. Medina; was born in Lebanon Township, Madison Co., N. Y., Feb. 21, 1823. His father, Russell Thayer, was born in Berkshire Co., Mass.; was a son of Jonathan Thayer, one of the old Revolutionary heroes, who participated in the struggle for his country's independence, and was Captain of a cavalry company, under Gen. Putnam, his period of service extending from Bunker Hill, the first decisive struggle, to the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown. Removing to York State, he lived successively in Delaware and Madison Cos., in the latter of which he died. Russell and an elder brother were engaged in the mercantile business in Lebanon, besides conducting an extensive ashery, and there Russell was married to Betsey Smith. In 1825, he engaged in farming, and, in 1833, removed to Ohio and settled in Medina Co., where he passed the rest of his life. He bought a farm south of Medina, in Montville Township, the only improvement being a log cabin. He died Nov. 2, 1877, at Medina, where he had retired some years previous. When 20 years old, the subject of this sketch commenced teaching school, which he followed, during the winter season, for ten years, farming during the summer. He has resided in this township since the settlement here by his father, except one year he farmed in

Granger Township. He was married, March 22, 1848, to Antoinette, daughter of Ransom and Elizabeth (Adams) Clark, her grandfather, John Clark, serving in the Revolutionary war. She was born Jan. 4, 1826, in Medina Township. By this union three children have been born—Russell Clark, William C. and Mary Cornelia. The youngest died in infancy. The elder son graduated from the Charity Hospital College at Cleveland; in 1874, located in Knox Co., where he remained two years, when failing health induced him to return to his father's farm. The younger son is a successful teacher, having taken a course at the Medina Normal School, and was married, Dec. 25, 1878, to Lillian L. daughter of Dr. Albertson, of Granger Township. Mrs. Thayer is a member of the Episcopal Church, as is the elder son. Mr. Thayer is serving his second term as Justice of the Peace. He has been a member of the I. O. O. F. since its organization. He is a Democrat, and voted first for James K. Polk for President.

LINUS S. THAYER, farmer; P. O. Medina; was born in Madison Co., N. Y., Lebanon Township, Sept. 15, 1832, son of Russell and Betsey (Smith) Thayer, who removed to this county in 1833. When 18 years old, Linus commenced teaching school, which he followed for some time during the winter season. He was married, March 13, 1856, to Charlotte, daughter of Theodore and Polly (Johnston) Perkins, who settled in Brunswick Township, Medina Co., Ohio, about the year 1830, and where they are both yet living. She was born Dec. 7, 1834, and, shortly after their union, Mr. Thayer removed to Eaton Co., Mich., where he remained until the spring of 1858, when he returned to Medina Co., where he has since lived, owning at present a good and tasty farm, near where his father settled nearly half a century ago. He is, in all respects, a worthy and estimable citizen, and has served as Clerk of his township, being at present Trustee. By his marriage, three children have been born—Cora E., now the wife of Frederick H. Curtis, of York Township; Frank J. and Eva Mae. The eldest taught school before her marriage, and she and her brother attended the Medina Normal School. The parents and eldest child are members of the Episcopal Church. Mr. Thayer served as a soldier in Co. E, 166th O. N. G.; was a charter member of the Medina Grange, of which he was Secretary. He is a Republican.



## SHARON TOWNSHIP.

P. P. AMERMAN, farmer; P. O. Sharon Center; was born in Somerset Co., N. J., Nov. 28, 1816. He is a son of Albert and Ellen (Peterson) Amerman. They were the parents of three children—P. P., John and Ellen. The subject of our sketch lived with his parents in New Jersey until the age of 9 years. His parents then moved to Long Island; they remained there eight years; they then came to Sharon Township, Medina Co., Ohio. During this time, Mr. Amerman spent his time at school and on the farm. At the age of 22, he returned to New Jersey and taught school eighteen months. In that time, he was united in marriage with Mary Cherry, daughter of Isaac Cherry. To them were born four children—Sarah E., born Nov. 16, 1844, dead; Maria E., born Jan. 1, 1848; Ida L., born Feb. 20, 1851, and Perry Ellsworth, born Oct. 11, 1863. At the time of Mr. and Mrs. Amerman's marriage, they came to Sharon Township, Medina Co., Ohio, and located in the southern part. Here they erected their cabin, in which they spent their honeymoon. Their furniture consisted of six home made chairs, two bedsteads, which were covered with basswood bark, used as a substitute for cord, and a large cupboard, all of which were home made. But, notwithstanding this, they lived as happily as people of the present day do in elegant mansions. Mr. Amerman has always lived a quiet, peaceable life, never having trouble with his fellow-men in any way. He now resides in the southern part of Sharon, on the old homestead of his parents. He is a Republican in politics, and one of the prominent citizens of his township.

PETER BRANIGAN (deceased); was a native of Ireland, and was born in 1817. He went to Scotland when a young man, and Jan. 1, 1844, was married to Margaret Digney, and by her had five children—Margaret, born Jan. 14, 1845, died Sept. 4, 1854; Tom, born Feb. 24, 1847, and is now living with his mother in Sharon Township; Peter, born Feb. 23, 1849, died March 6, 1853; John, born Dec. 18, 1850; Ellen, born March 10, 1852, died March 11, 1856. Mrs. Branigan is a native of Scotland, and was

born Aug. 16, 1826. They came to the United States in 1850, and afterward to Sharon Township, Medina Co., Ohio. Mr. Branigan departed this life Sept. 8, 1854. He was an honest, upright man, and his death was mourned by a large circle of friends and acquaintances. Mrs. Branigan was married again, her second husband being William H. Varney, and to this union was born one son—Perry O., born Nov. 9, 1860. Mr. Varney died at Ft. Scott, Kan., April 9, 1862, from wounds received in the army. John Branigan, a son by the first marriage, married Ida Wise, Dec. 8, 1878. Tom, his brother, at the age of 14, entered the army, and his comrades all say there was no braver soldier in that bitter struggle than Tom Branigan.

METCALF BELL, farmer; P. O. Sharon Center; was born in England Oct. 19, 1832. In 1833, he together with his parents, John and Mary (Coates) Bell, came to the United States, and on their arrival, started for the interior, and the same year, located in Sharon Township, Medina Co., Ohio. He is one of the following family: John, Elizabeth, James C., Ann, Sarah, Hannah, Metcalf, Mary, and two that died in infancy, unnamed. Mr. Bell passed his youth with his parents, on the farm and attending school. In 1858, Mr. Bell and Miss Ellen J. Connell were united in marriage, and to them were born four children—DeForest, born Jan. 15, 1859; John, born April 1, 1860; Warren, born April 9, 1862, and Nettie, born July 7, 1874. DeForest married Miss Rena Totman, and lives in Sharon Township. Mr. Bell is a Democrat in politics, and a man of considerable influence in the township. He has held the position of Justice of the Peace for the past twelve years. He is a member of the Universalist Society in Sharon Township.

DANIEL G. BRIGGS, farmer; P. O. Sharon Center. Among the many enterprising and influential citizens of Sharon Township, is the subject of this sketch. He is a native of Ontario Co., N. Y., and was born Oct. 13, 1818. He is a son of Thomas B. and Abigail (Gregg) Briggs, who were parents of the following family—Louisa, Almeda, Daniel, Silas, George G., Ben-





jamin B., Maria A., John G. and Joseph W. Our subject lived with his parents in Ontario Co., N. Y., until he was 15 years of age, assisting on the farm. The only schooling he received, was during the winter, when he attended the district school. In 1833, he made a trip to Illinois, where he remained a short time, when he came back East, and finally settled in Sharon Township, Medina Co., Ohio, where he has ever since resided. In 1839, he was united in marriage with Miss Rhoda Pratt, and to this union was born one son—Thomas G., born April 2, 1841. This son, and his wife, Mary C. (Crane) Briggs, live with his father. Mr. and Mrs. Briggs commenced married life with scarcely anything, but, by hard labor and frugality, have accumulated a fine farm, consisting of 207 acres. This farm is situated one and a half miles directly north of the center of Sharon Township, and is one of the best improved farms in the township.

ERASTUS S. BISSELL, deceased; another of Sharon's best citizens that has passed away, is the subject of this sketch; he was born in Litchfield Co., Conn., April 18, 1812, and was a son of Nathaniel and Anna (Smith) Bissell. Mr. Bissell spent his youth with his parents until the age of 21, he then taught school three years. In the year of 1836, he was married to Mary A. More, born Dec. 11, 1818, a daughter of Lawrence More; to this union were born five children, as follows: Julia A., born Nov. 2, 1850; Willis M., born April 12, 1853; George L., born Jan. 25, 1856 (dead); Claude L., born March 30, 1857 (dead); Irene L., born Nov. 29, 1862. In the year 1836, Mr. Bissell came to Sharon Township, Medina Co., and located in the northeastern part, where he resided until his death, which occurred Jan. 20, 1875. Mr. Bissell was a most highly respected citizen; he was honest in his dealings, and always attentive to business matters. Mrs. Mary A. Bissell died Dec. 15, 1871. Mr. and Mrs. Bissell were Christian, church-going people; they each died a Christian death, and left a large circle of friends to mourn their loss.

S. W. BEECH (deceased), Sharon; was born in Canaan, Essex Co., Vt., Aug. 17, 1811. He was a son of Samuel and Mary (Bailey) Beech, who were parents of eleven children, as follows: Phæbe, Mary, Martha, Samuel, Israel, Isaac, Abigail, Thomas, Nathaniel, Elias and Sargeant W. The father of these children died in 1813.

Our subject continued to reside with his widowed mother until 1822, when he went to live with his sister Phæbe in Maine. He remained with his sister, going to school, until 15 years of age, and then returned to live with his mother. In 1834, he emigrated to Sharon Township, Medina Co., Ohio, locating on a farm about one mile west of the Center, where he resided up to the time of his death. In October, 1842, he was united in marriage with Miss Sarah Shaw, daughter of Dr. Ichabod Shaw, and by her had the following family: Edgar L., born Oct. 1, 1843, and died in infancy; the second, also Edgar L., was born Sept. 1, 1845, died Aug. 1, 1864, in the Saratoga hospital, from diseases contracted while in his country's service; the youngest child, Arthur, was born April 10, 1847, died in infancy. The mother died Aug. 17, 1847. Mr. Beech's second marriage was solemnized in September, 1848, his wife being Mary L. Shaw, a sister of his former wife. To this union were born five children—Arthur J. P., born July 6, 1849, died in infancy; Arthur W., born June 26, 1851; John P., born Oct. 29, 1853; Harry M., born May 27, 1856, and Walter E., born Aug. 16, 1857. Mr. Beech's chosen occupation was that of farming and stock-raising, and this he followed through life. In 1853, he commenced suffering from a cancer in the left cheek, but, being a man of strong will-power, refused to give up work until 1878. By degrees the cancer spread from his cheek to his nose and left eye, completely destroying the eye and the left side of his face. It then spread to his neck and shoulder, and, after untold sufferings, God came to relieve the sufferer. His death occurred July 22, 1880. Through all his illness, Mr. Beech bore his lot uncomplainingly, and, up to the day of his death, always waited on himself. His unspoken sufferings drew the family ties of love more closely about him, and, when death relieved him, he was mourned by a large circle of friends. Mr. Beech was one of Sharon's best and most respected citizens. He was a great reader, and, losing the power of speech and sense of hearing about a year before his death, it was a source of much comfort to him.

JOHN BENNETT, Sharon Center; was born in Somersetshire, Eng., Jan. 25, 1820; he is a son of John and Mary (Miller) Bennett, who were parents of the following family: Ann, Edwin, John, Eliza, Edmund and Harriet.



Mr. Bennett lived with his parents until he was 13 years of age, and then worked hard for neighbors until he reached his majority. In 1841, he invested his hard-earned savings in a passage to America. On his arrival he immediately engaged in farming in Onondaga Co., N. Y., where he remained over two years; he then emigrated to Medina Co., Ohio, locating in Sharon Township. For some time after his arrival in Sharon, Mr. Bennett worked for the settlers by the month. He then purchased a farm in the English settlement in northwestern Sharon, where he has ever since resided. In 1847, he was united in marriage with Nancy, daughter of John and Ruth Woodward, and to this union were born the following family: Lorenzo, born Aug. 28, 1848; Maria, born Aug. 11, 1850; Edwin, born Jan. 16, 1853, and Ed-line, born Jan. 16, 1853, and died in infancy. Lorenzo and Edwin are in the mercantile business in Colorado Springs, Colo. Maria is the wife of James Waters, and resides in Dubuque, Iowa. Mr. Bennett is one of the self-reliant men of Sharon Township. He started out in life with nothing but a strong will and willing hands; he now owns 125 acres of good land, which he and his estimable wife have acquired by hard labor; he is a Democrat in politics and is an adherent of the principles laid down by the National Democratic party.

M. A. CHANDLER, farmer and stock-raiser; P. O. Sharon Center; was born in Windsor, Conn., July 24, 1804. He is a son of Isaac Chandler, and his grandfather bore the same name. He is one in a family of seven children, whose names are as follows: Roger, Mary A., Edward, M. A., Louisa, Agnes L. and Isaac. Mr. Chandler lived with his parents, assisting them until he arrived at the age of 17. He then went to Great Falls, N. H., and commenced work in the great woolen-factory at that place. He had remained in the employ of the owners of the factory but one year, when, by his diligent and faithful services, he was advanced to the honorable position of foreman. After remaining at the factory some time, his health failed, and he came to Sharon Township, Medina Co., Ohio, purchasing a farm in Lot 6, where he now resides. In 1837, Mr. Chandler and Miss Elmira Moore were united in wedlock, and to this union were born eight children—Lucy E., Julia E., John M., Edgar L. (dead), Hattie, Mary B., George A. and Frances E.

The first experience in farming Mr. Chandler ever had was when he first came to Sharon Township. By industry he has prospered sufficiently to be the owner of 112 acres of land, clear of all encumbrances. He is a member of the Masonic Fraternity, and a Republican in politics. He has always lived a quiet, unpretentious life, and is regarded by his neighbors as an honest and upright citizen.

GUY C. CHATFIELD, retired farmer; P. O. Sharon Center; was born in Onondaga Co., N. Y., July 23, 1805. His father, William C. Chatfield, was by trade a carpenter and joiner, and he was a native of Litchfield Co., Conn. In 1796, Mr. Chatfield, the father, emigrated to Cayuga Co., N. Y., and, in 1798, married Miss Hope Goodrich. This estimable lady died in 1799, and, in 1800, Mr. Chatfield married Susanna Coy, and has had by her the following family: Hopapa, John M., Guy C., L. C., Olive, Mary, Fillmore, William C., Laura and D. M. The mother of these died in February, 1842. It is needless here to dwell on the life of the father, suffice to say that his life was filled with trials and hardships which he finally overcame, and, in his later years, derived much comfort and pleasure from his labor of years before. In May, 1834, he, together with his family, came from New York to Sharon Township, Medina Co., Ohio, via Erie Canal, Buffalo, Cleveland and overland, until they reached their destination. Mr. Chatfield first settled on the farm now owned by our subject. In November, 1831, Guy C. Chatfield married Abigail M. Barber, a daughter of Solomon and Cynthia Barber, and to this union were born seven children—Coy B., born March 19, 1834; Mahlon, March 27, 1837; Ellen B., Nov. 16, 1840; Elmer, Aug. 26, 1843; Orson K., Jan. 16, 1847; and two that died in infancy. Mr. Chatfield's father died Feb. 6, 1842. Mr. Chatfield was one of Sharon's earliest settlers, and he was often selected by his friends and neighbors to hold the different township offices. Mr. Chatfield, since his arrival in Medina Co., has never enjoyed the best of health. He has always been a farmer, and is at present the owner of 114 acres of excellent farming and grazing land. Politically speaking, Mr. Chatfield is a Republican, firmly adhering to the principles laid down by the National Republican party. Religiously, he is a Spiritualist, believing that the spirits of departed friends can communicate with living





beings. In conclusion, we can say of Mr. Chatfield that there is not a man more respected or one that enjoys the confidence of the people more than does this gentleman. Since his 29th year, he has always lived more or less in the township of Sharon, seeing the young children growing to be men and women, and the old ones passing away; he has lived until he now in the eve of his life, can fold his hands and look back on his past life, as one filled with self-denial and usefulness.

**JACOB FULMER**, farmer: P. O. Sharon Center; was born in Northumberland Co., Penn., Dec. 6, 1814. He is a son of Daniel and Catharine (Stiver) Fulmer, who were parents of nine children—William, John, Daniel, Catharine, Samuel, Jacob, Jeremiah, George and Anna. Our subject passed his early years on his father's farm, and, at the age of 15, started in the ashery business for himself. In 1838, he was united in marriage with Mary, daughter of John Lamb, and by her has had two children—Minerva, born May 23, 1839; and William H., May 29, 1841, died Jan. 3, 1844. The mother departed this life June 18, 1856. Mr. Fulmer's second marriage was solemnized in October, 1856, the bride being Matilda High, daughter of Abraham and Hettie High, who was born Aug. 8, 1831. To Mr. Fulmer's second marriage, there were born the following family: Ida, born Oct. 8, 1857; Allen, July 2, 1859, and died in infancy; Norman, June 25, 1860; Kent, Feb. 27, 1863; Jennie, Sept. 22, 1865; and Abbey, March 30, 1868. In 1865, Mr. Fulmer came to Sharon Township, Medina Co., Ohio, and engaged in the ashery business at the Center. He worked at that for some time, and then located on a farm east of Sharon Center, where he has since resided. In politics, Mr. Fulmer is a Republican, and he and wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

**C. E. FRENCH**, farmer; P. O. Medina; is one of the following family, born to Timothy and Mary (Towle) French—Cyrus E. Eliza J., Josiah W., Abigail T., Mary J. (died in infancy), Mary, Timothy (died in infancy), Timothy B., Joseph F., and another that died in infancy. Cyrus E. was born in Loudon, N. H., April 1, 1811, where he remained until he was 24 years of age. In 1835, Mr. French emigrated Westward, making his home in Sharon Township, Medina Co., Ohio, where he

has since resided. In November of the same year, he married Sarah J., daughter of E. and C. Stebbins, and to this union were born the following family: James H., born Jan. 31, 1838; Mary J., born Jan. 7, 1839; Philomela E. and Timothy B., born Oct. 29, 1846, died May 4, 1874; Timothy was an intelligent and industrious young man, and gave promise of being at the head of his profession—law—but death claimed him while pursuing his studies. Mr. French had been married but about four years when his house took fire, in the family's absence, and his total possessions were thus destroyed, as his grain was all stored in the house. He luckily had loaned eleven bushels of wheat to a neighbor, and, with this, re-commenced the start he had made. It was at this time in his life that Mr. French realized what it was to have good neighbors, and he undoubtedly would have had a severe time of it had not his neighbors been free to loan him implements, and assist him in various ways. Since that time, Mr. French makes it a point never to refuse the loan of anything if it will assist a friend or neighbor, knowing, as he does, that it was by this means that he was enabled to recover what he had lost by fire. Mr. and Mrs. French are honest and upright people, and are members of the Free-Will Baptist Church.

**SETH GOODWIN**, deceased. He was a son of Nathaniel and Lovira (Low) Goodwin, and was born April 11, 1812. In 1817, Nathaniel Goodwin and family moved to Cuyahoga Co., Ohio, and, after one year's residence there, moved to Granger Township, Medina Co., Ohio. Seth remained with his parents, assisting them on the farm until he was 20 years of age, and then began for himself in life. In December, 1834, he married Pamela Wolcott, daughter of Joseph and Lucy Wolcott, who were among the earliest settlers in Granger. To this union were born four children—Marcia M., born Sept. 17, 1835; Russell W., born April 19, 1839; Laura O., born June 20, 1843, and Clarinda L., born Oct. 18, 1849. At the time of Mr. and Mrs. Goodwin's marriage, they moved to Sharon Township, where they have ever since resided, excepting the years of 1844 and 1845, when they lived in Granger. After suffering fourteen months of paralysis, Mr. Goodwin died Nov. 24, 1878. Mrs. Goodwin still survives him. She is one in a family of seven children and whose average age is eighty years.



**JOSHUA HARTMAN**, farmer; P. O. Sharon Center. Among the few early pioneers of Sharon Township still living is the subject of this sketch. He was born in Pennsylvania Jan. 9, 1813, and is a son of Peter and Catharine (Zollnar) Hartman. Mr. Hartman spent his youth with his parents, not being allowed the privilege of attending school but six months during his youth; at the age of 15, he commenced working at the mason's trade; this he followed six years. At the age of 20, Joshua Hartman, with his parents, came to Medina Co., Ohio, locating in Wadsworth Township. One year from this time, he was married to Julia Wall, daughter of Christian Wall. To them was born one child, Eli, born Oct. 31, 1834. Mrs. Julia Hartman departed this life May 1, 1835. Mr. Hartman was again married, in 1837, to Catharine Meyer, daughter of Simon Meyer. To this marriage were born seven children, as follows: Paul, born July 3, 1838; Nathan, born May 9, 1840; Mary A., born Dec. 28, 1841; Lizzie, born Jan. 14, 1844; Milton, born Aug. 20, 1845; Josiah, born Nov. 15, 1847 (is now married to Ida L. Amerman, born Feb. 20, 1851; to this union is born one child, Ellsworth P., born May 2, 1877), and Catharine, born July 6, 1849. Mrs. Hartman died suddenly of the palsy, Sept. 7, 1850. Mr. Hartman was again married in 1851, to Mary Holben. By this wife were born eight children, as follows: Lovina, born Oct. 14, 1852; Samuel, born Nov. 4, 1854; Clara B., born Sept. 26, 1857; William K., born Feb. 27, 1860; Viola L., born Oct. 26, 1862; Nora E., born May 8, 1866; Ida, born Sept. 19, 1870, and Jennie L., born Nov. 19, 1871. Mr. Hartman is a successful farmer and stock-raiser, and owns 133 acres of well-improved land. He is a member of the Presbyterian Church, and an influential man in society. He is highly respected by the citizens of Sharon Township.

**HIRAM HAYDEN**, farmer; P. O. Sharon Center; was born in Mahoning Co., Ohio, Aug. 9, 1815. His parents were Samuel M. and Asenath (Sprague) Hayden, who were parents of the following family: Julia, Lucinda, Belsey, Louis, Mary, Hiram and Harriet. In 1817, this family moved to Medina Co., Ohio, locating in Wadsworth Township, where they remained, farming until 1831. In that year they removed to Sharon Township, same county, and settled on the farm now owned by M. A. Chandler.

The first settlement in Sharon Township was made in 1830, and, at the time of Mr. Hayden's arrival, it was an almost unbroken wilderness, their nearest neighbor being about three miles distant. It was here they erected a log cabin, and commenced life in the wilderness. April 20, 1837, Hiram Hayden and Emeline Briggs were united in matrimony, and to this union were born three children—George, born April 5, 1840; Henry S., born April 29, 1842 and Daniel H., born Oct. 6, 1845. George is the present County Clerk of Medina County, his biography appearing in another part of this work. Henry enlisted in Company I, 42d O. V. I., under Gen. James A. Garfield. He valiantly served in his country's defense, and was mortally wounded at the battle of Chickasaw Bayou. He was conveyed to the hospital at Young's Point, and, on the 25th of January, 1863, all that was mortal of Henry S. Hayden passed away, and he died bravely the death of a soldier. Daniel married Geneva J. Hagerman, and he died Sept. 13, 1880. His widow yet survives him, her home being in Sharon Township. Mrs. Hayden, beloved wife of Hiram Hayden, departed this life March 10, 1879. By honesty and hard labor, Mr. Hayden has, by his own exertions, bought and paid for 344 acres of land. He is a radical Republican in politics, and a member of the Universalist Society in Sharon Township. He is an active, energetic man, and, in his time, has done much to advance the education and morals of the township.

**WILLIAM HOPKINS**, Sharon Center. This gentleman is one of the oldest pioneers of his neighborhood, now living; is a native of Luzerne Co., Penn., and was born Feb. 19, 1814. His parents, Isaac and Susanna (Harrison) Hopkins, had born to them this family: Lucy, Iarius, Sally, William, Stephen, Clarissa, Isaac R. and Maria. At the age of 15, he left his father's home in Bath Township, Summit Co., and went to Richfield to learn the carpenter's trade. After six years' labor at that place, he returned to Bath Township, and at that time married Mary L. Goodwin. At a very early period in the history of Sharon Township, they emigrated to and settled in the eastern part. They first erected a rude log cabin and lived in that until their circumstances improved. Mr. Hopkins was one of the pioneers of Sharon Township, and takes much pleasure in relating





the hardships and incidents of the pioneer's life. To his marriage with Miss Goodwin, there were born one son and one daughter—H. H., born Dec. 1, 1836, and Louisa, born Oct. 10, 1841. These children are both married; the former to Betsey A. Kennedy, and the latter to J. C. Hatch. Mr. Hopkins started in life without any capital, but by hard work and economy has gained him a nice farm of 117 acres of excellent land. He is, in the fullest sense of the word, a self-made man; is a Republican in politics and a member of the Lutheran Church.

REUEL W. MILLS (deceased); was a native of Litchfield Co., Conn., and was born June 5, 1805. His parents, Ebenezer and Lucetia (Hinman) Mills, were parents of five children—Corel H., Fenel W., Flora E., Ebenezer R. and Reuel W. When but a small child, Mr. Mills' father died, and he went to live with a Mr. Dyer. In 1821, he, together with Mr. Dyer, moved to Trumbull Co., Ohio. In about 1826, Mr. Mills went to Onondaga Co., N. Y., and engaged there in the hatting business with an uncle. Aug. 2, 1829, he was united in marriage with Mira Beswick, who died June 19, 1848. Mr. Mills' second wife was Lucy A. Newton, to whom he was married April 21, 1849. To this union were born four children—Leroy, born Feb. 22, 1850; Sally M., born April 9, 1852, died Feb. 12, 1863; Cyrus N., born Oct. 28, 1855, and Lucretia, born July 20, 1858. During the fall of 1835, Mr. Mills came to Western Star, Medina Co., Ohio, and engaged with his brother Ebenezer in the wagon-making trade; in April 1840, moved to the southeastern part of Sharon, where he lived until his death, which occurred in 1849. In religion, Mr. and Mrs. Mills were of the Universalist faith.

JOHN S. MERTON, farmer; P. O. Sharon Center; was born in Bloomsburg, Columbia Co., Penn., Nov. 21, 1813. He is a son of Jacob and Mary (Smith) Merton, who were the parents of the following children—Andrew H., Belinda, Mary, Oliver P., Jacob, Catharine and Margaret A. Mr. Merton remained on the farm with his parents until the age of 18, receiving a common-school education during that time. At the age of 18, he left the farm and went to learn the tanning and currier's trade, which he followed five years, then went to Summit Co., Ohio, and during the year of 1840, Mr. Merton was mar-

ried to Susannah May, a daughter of John May. To this union were born the following children—Gertrude A., Walter S., T. C., Charles B., Henry G., Irene M., Clara A., Edward M., Arthur M. and Florence R. In the year 1872, Mr. Merton came to Sharon Township, Medina Co., where he has since resided. He is a highly respected citizen. In politics, he is a Republican. He owns a farm of 122 acres of well-improved land, and is an industrious farmer.

WILLIAM MCCOY, farmer; was born Jan. 19, 1836, in Wadsworth Township, Medina Co., Ohio, and is a son of John and Rebecca (Freeborn) McCoy, and grandson of Samuel McCoy, who was a native of the "Emerald Isle," across the Atlantic. William remained with his parents until he reached his majority, and then went to Illinois. In August, 1861, he enlisted in Company I, 2d O. V. C., and, after one year's service, was discharged on account of poor health. In August, 1863, his health had so improved that he again enlisted in the service of his country, but this time in the infantry. In 1865, he was united in marriage with Miss M. E. Nixon, daughter of Charles and Catharine Nixon, and to this union were born the following family: Minnie D., born May 3, 1866; Okie E., born July 12, 1867; Henry A., born Aug. 25, 1870; and Zara and Zada, twins, born Dec. 19, 1871. After his return from the army, Mr. McCoy located in southwestern Sharon, where he has remained farming up to the present. Mr. McCoy is a Republican in politics, and is an intelligent and enterprising citizen.

PETER A. MORE, deceased; was born in Scotland July 9, 1797, and was a son of Lawrence and May (Beid) More, who emigrated to the United States, landing at Philadelphia in 1801. Soon after their arrival, this family moved to Pittsburgh. At the age of 17, Peter came still further westward, locating in Copley Township, Summit Co. After remaining here four years, he returned to Pittsburgh and the following nine years was employed in a paper manufactory at that place. In 1827, Mr. More removed to his old home in Summit Co., Ohio, and in 1829 moved to Sharon Township, Medina Co., Ohio. He was among Sharon's very earliest settlers, and was, perhaps, the first land-owner in the township. Mr. More was very intimately connected with the early history of Sharon Township, and more of him will be said elsewhere in this volume. In 1821, he



was united in marriage with Martha W. Boggs, and this union was blessed with a family of thirteen, as follows: Andrew B., Eleanor H., Thomas W., A. P., Henry H., Martha J., May R., Cornelia A., Lawrence W., John F., Cornelia, Eliza T. and Augusta. Mr. More was a gentleman whose private and public life was above reproach, and his sterling qualities made him many warm and sincere friends; his death occurred Nov. 11, 1859; he and wife were members of the Methodist Church.

ELI SHANK, farmer; P. O. Sharon Center; was born in Lancaster Co., Penn., Jan. 3, 1823. He is a son of Christian and Nancy (Raudfung) Shank, who were parents of the following family: John, Jacob, Christian, Reuben, Elizabeth, Eli, Barbara and Sebastian. When Eli was but 8 years of age, his father died, leaving a widow and eight children in almost destitute circumstances. When old enough to do anything, the children would work out and contribute their earnings for the general family use. When 9 years old, Eli made his advent in the world. He worked at different kinds of employment, and, up to his 26th year, assisted his mother in the care of the family. In January, 1850, he married Harriet Mellich, and by her had one son—Augustus W., born Sept. 2, 1853. This son married Matilda Hartman, and to them was born one child—Jessie, Nov. 4, 1876. At the time of our subject's marriage, in 1850, his cash capital amounted to only \$2, but since that time he has, by hard labor and economy, acquired valuable property. They came to Sharon Township first in 1832, but have moved away since, and also returned. Mr. Shank and family are plain, honest and upright people, and deserving the respect of their large circle of friends and acquaintances.

JEHIEL SQUIRE, retired farmer; P. O. Sharon; was born in Roxbury, Litchfield Co., Conn., May 1, 1793; his parents, Benjamin and Patience (Ward) Squire, were of that class of New Englanders that were very strict in their religious belief, and highly honored people; they were the parents of five children—Solomon R., Miriam, Abigail, Jehiel and Abraham. Jehiel Squire was married to Miss Ida Amerman, daughter of Albert Amerman, April 28, 1819. After a wedded life of many years, this lady died, the date of her death being Aug. 31, 1871, Mr. Squire remarried Jan. 7, 1873, his second wife being Harriet M. Allen, daughter of Will-

iam and Harriet Heacox. Mr. Squire passed his youth and early manhood on the farm, receiving but a limited education. In 1816, his health began failing, and he discontinued farming, and commenced teaching district school in New Jersey; he continued this business some four years. In 1820, he went west to the then new State of Ohio, locating in Columbiana Co. After seven years' residence there, he removed to Wadsworth Township, Medina Co. During the spring of 1832, Mr. Squire moved into Sharon Township, same county, and commenced farming. His health failing, he was compelled to relinquish active life, and accordingly moved to Akron, Summit Co., where he remained until 1860, and then went to Wadsworth. He again moved to Akron in 1863, and remained there until 1867, and then moved to his old home in Sharon Township, Medina Co., where he has remained ever since. Mr. Squire is a Republican in politics, and a member of the Universalist Society; he is an old and honored citizen, and is among the few men that follow the Golden Rule.

S. S. TOTMAN, farmer; P. O. Sharon Center. He is a son of Ira and Nancy (Gregg) Totman, and grandson of Samuel and Naomea (McCartney) Totman, who are parents of the following family of children: Ira, Delos, Jonathan, Melinda, Caroline and Adaline. Ira and Nancy Totman are parents of three children, as follows: Mary and Martha, born July 18, 1838, and S. S. Totman, born in Ontario Co., N. Y., 1845. S. S. Totman was married in the year 1867, to Lucy Crane, daughter of Barnabas Crane. To this union were born four children, of whom only one is living: Ira C., born April 1, 1878. Mr. Totman is an able farmer, owning 115 acres of well-improved land, situated two miles north of Sharon Center. He is a noted athlete, being a Captain of the Sharon Base Ball Club during the past eleven years.

ADAM TURNER, farmer; P. O. Sharon Center; was born in Canfield, Mahoning Co., Ohio, Nov. 16, 1810. He is a son of John and Dorothy (Waldrof) Turner, and grandson of Adam Turner. Our subject is one of a family of ten children—Elizabeth, Adam, Lovina, James, Lucinda, Peggy, Clark, John, Alvin and Almira. When but 4 years of age, Adam, together with his parents, moved to Copley, Summit Co., Ohio, and for nine years followed farming. They then returned to Canfield, where





they remained four years, and, in the fall of 1829, moved to Sharon Township, Medina Co., Ohio, locating in a wilderness full of wild beasts and game. Mr. Turner Sr., was quite a hunter at the beginning of his residence in Sharon, and was often known to go out, and, in one day, kill three bears. The following story is related of him: One evening he was watching for a bear, and, seeing what he supposed to be the bear in the distance, fired, and the beast fell dead before the unerring rifle of the hunter. On examination, it proved to be a neighbor's steer that had strayed away from its owners. Mr. Turner is said to be the first land-holder in Sharon Township, and this place is situated in Lot 6, in the north part of the township, on the center road. In 1832, Adam married Aurelia E. Crosby, who was born April 12, 1812, and by her has the following family: Henry N., born March 29, 1834; Betsey E., born Nov. 6, 1836, died July 14, 1845; Milton W., born May 17, 1846, died April 12, 1865, from disease contracted in the army, and Dwight M., born Dec. 29, 1847. Mr. Turner remembers vividly the scenes of his youth, and one incident he remembers is here worthy of mention. At an early date, his father gave for a barrel of salt a good two-year-old colt, which, in comparison with the price of a barrel of salt now, is quite noticeable. Mr. and Mrs. Turner are devoted members of the Congregational Church, and Mr. Turner is a Republican in politics.

CHRISTIAN WALL, farmer; P. O. Sharon Center; is a native of the township in which he now resides, and was born Feb. 24, 1834. He is one in a family of ten children born to Charles and Sophia (Fredrick) Wall, and their names respectively are Jonas, John, Christian, Saloma, Thomas, Reason, Charles, dead; William, dead; Margaret, dead, and Franklin. These children, with the exception of the eldest, were all born in Sharon Township. Mr. and Mrs. Wall were among the township's earliest settlers. They settled in the southeastern part in 1831, and in 1835, located on the farm they now occupy. Mr. Wall figured quite prominently in the early history of Sharon, and it was he that located and cut the road through the woods from the Montville line to Sharon Center. An item of interest in Mr. Wall's history is, that he owned the first wagon in his neighborhood, and for this he gave seven good three-year-old steers and \$35 cash. At that early day this wagon

was considered a great luxury, and was only used on Sundays, etc. Mr. and Mrs. Wall are members of the Lutheran Church. Christian Wall remained with his parents on the farm until he was 26 years of age. Sept. 30, 1855, he was united in marriage with Ann M., daughter of Jacob and Mary (Koonkle) Giger, and to this union was born one child—Jennie L., born March 26, 1865. From the time of Mr. Wall's marriage, until 1867, he lived in different localities, and at that date he settled in Sharon Township on a farm one mile east of the Center, where he has ever since resided. Mr. Wall owns 107 acres of good land, and his vocation in life is that of farming and stock-raising. He and family are members of the Lutheran Church, and for the past nine years he has held the position of Deacon in the same. Mr. Wall takes quite an interest in church matters, and is one of the many excellent citizens of Sharon Township.

BENJAMIN J. WILLET (deceased); was a native of New Jersey, and was born Jan. 16, 1806. His parents, George and Rebecca Willet, were the parents of eight children. When but an infant, our subject, together with his parents, moved to Columbiana Co., Ohio, where they remained until the death of the father, which occurred in 1828. In the same year, Benjamin J. was united in marriage with Mary J. Rudisill, and to this union were born a large family of children, as follows: Rebecca B., born April 6, 1829, died June 28, 1864; Harriet, born Nov. 16, 1831, died February 1835; George, born April 26, 1834; Roswell W., born Aug. 27, 1836, died Aug. 30, 1878; Alonzo D., born Jan. 7, 1839; Parthenia J., born June 24, 1841, died Feb. 22, 1872; Benjamin F., born Dec. 4, 1843; William W., born Oct. 25, 1846, and Harriet M., born April 26, 1849. In 1830, Mr. and Mrs. Willet came to Sharon Township, where they have ever since resided. Mr. Willet was a farmer and a hard-working and enterprising citizen. He settled on a farm that was all woods, and by his own labors, cleared and improved it. On the 29th of June, 1875, after a short illness, Mr. Willet's death occurred from heart disease. He was a man that had many friends, and the news of his sudden death filled not only the hearts of his relatives with sorrow, but those of a large concourse of friends that followed his remains to their last resting place in the city of the dead. Mr. and Mrs. Willet



were consistent and devoted members of the Disciples' Church in Granger. Their two sons, George and Alonzo, served three years each in our late civil war, and deserve much credit and praise for their brave and meritorious conduct in the time of trouble.

T. C. WOODWARD, farmer and stock-raiser; P. O. Sharon Center; is a native of Sharon Township, Medina Co., Ohio, and was born Oct. 16, 1840. He is a son of John and Ruth (Waters) Woodward, who were parents of the following family: Nancy, Mary, William, Dinal, Elizabeth, John, Thomas, James, dead; Edward, and Victory E., dead. Thomas C. lived

with his parents, assisting them on the farm until he was 25 years of age. In 1865, he was united in marriage with Joanna, daughter of Richard Amerman, and by her had three children—Elnoadell, born Nov. 16, 1866; Verna, born Feb. 1, 1875, died Aug. 21, 1876, and Lena, born Feb. 21, 1877. At the time of his marriage, Mr. Woodward settled on the old Woodward homestead, in the northeastern part of Sharon Township, and has made that his home up to the present. In politics, he is a Republican, and is regarded as a genial, intelligent gentleman.

### CHATHAM TOWNSHIP.

ELISHA ALLIS, farmer; P. O. Chatham Center; was born Oct. 30, 1829, in Plainfield, Berkshire Co., Mass., third child born to Lemuel and Lydia Beals. Lemuel was born in Massachusetts about the year 1785; he was a son of Lemuel, who was a soldier in the war of the Revolution. Lemuel, the father of our subject, was married, in May, 1825, to Lydia Beals, who was born Feb. 10, 1806, in Hampshire Co., Mass., daughter of Samuel and Sallie (Chamberlain) Beals. He was a son of Joseph, to whom were born Samuel, Joseph, Polly, Lydia, Robert and Lovica. To Samuel were born three children—Dennis, Otis and Lydia. Elisha's father first came to Ohio in 1833. He was a man of some means. He traded his farm in Massachusetts for a quantity of unimproved land in this township. After his arrival, he purchased several hundred acres, and at one time owned about 2,000 acres, which he sold out to settlers at a small advance, and did what he could to encourage immigration to this township. He was first a member of the Free-Will Baptist Church; afterward joined the Congregational. His death occurred Oct. 20, 1857. Ten children were born; of those living are Justin, in Wyandot Co.; Sallie, now Mrs. John Murray, in Williams Co.; Elisha, in this township; Marrilla, now Mrs. Eli Grimm, of Williams Co.; Wells P., Hiram and Alonzo, in this township; and Mrs. Mat. Kelley. Elisha left home at 21. Sept. 10, 1851, he was married to Elma A. Palmer, who was born

Dec. 25, 1835, in Jefferson Co., this State, the eldest child of Dr. David and Elizabeth (Bovard) Palmer. The Doctor was a son of George Palmer. Dr. Palmer's sons were David, now a minister in the M. E. Conference; Dr. George B., settled in Chatham, now deceased; also, Thomas; James is a druggist in Troy, Ashland Co., Ohio. Her father, Dr. Palmer, located in this township in 1847, and now resides in Lodi. His wife died in 1878. After Mr. Allis was married, he located west of the Center one mile and a quarter, where he resided twelve years. In the spring of 1864, he located where he now resides. His farm of 149 acres is situated in the extreme south part of the township, on the Lodi road. Of five children born to him, four are living—David L., who married a daughter of Isaac Rogers; she died of consumption Dec. 25, 1880; Dora, George L. and Verona L.; Mary L. died Dec. 5, 1879, wife of Alvaro Kinney. The Allis family are of Republican faith.

J. M. BEACH, farmer; P. O. Chatham Center; was born Feb. 21, 1821, in Morgan Township, Ashtabula Co., Ohio, the youngest of a family of twelve children, born to Luman and Lydia (Wright) Beach. The Beach family are of French and English ancestry. Lydia Wright was a daughter of John, who was of Welsh and English descent. To Abner Beach, were born three children—Luman, Marsh and Maria. Luman and wife, were married in Connecticut, moved to Cattaraugus Co., N. Y., remained one year, and in





1804 moved to Ashtabula Co., Ohio, and located on land given him by John Wright, his father-in-law. During this time, war broke out, and Mr. Beach cast his lot among the number who were to defend themselves against the British and Indians. Returning home after the war, he lived there until 1834, when he moved to Wadsworth Township, where he lived until removed by death, which occurred Dec. 28, 1836. His wife died Jan. 25, 1849. She was a Presbyterian; he was not a member of any church, but made a profession of religion some time ere his death. Jonathan being young at the time of his father's death, he lived with his mother, and assisted her in the management of the farm. Oct. 31, was married to Mrs. Angeline Brooks, who was born in Connecticut, daughter of Shubael Whitney. She died in 1858, leaving him one child—Luman, now in Washington Territory; was a soldier in the late war, a young man of energy, and has been in that region for several years. Oct. 30, 1859, Mr. Beach married his present wife, who was Caroline K. Clapp, eldest child born to Luther Clapp, of this township. She was born May 23, 1839, in this township, where her parents first settled. Mr. Beach was one of the "boys in blue," entering the first year of the war, Sept. 24, 1861, in Co. B, 42d O. V. I., and served three years, and received an honorable discharge, Dec. 29, 1864, having been a faithful and efficient soldier. The last two years, he was permanently connected with the hospital as a nurse, and assistant to the Medical Corps. He had no superiors. For a few years after Mr. Beach was first married, he carried on the blacksmith's trade. After he came to this township, he was engaged in selling medicine some time, and finally settled down to farming, in which vocation he has since been engaged. Has 109 acres of land, situated a short distance north of the Center. Since 1847, he has been a professor of religion, was for several years, a licensed exhorter, and has endeavored to do what good he could possibly in his Master's vineyard. Being an excellent singer, he has been instrumental in doing much good, in a local way, in the community in which he has lived. Is an enthusiastic worker in the Sunday school cause; is now conducting a Mission school, of which he is Superintendent. He and wife, are members of the Congregational Church. Of his children living are Harry M., Louie (an invalid), Edith and Willie.

JOHN BUCK, farmer; P. O. Chatham Center; born Nov. 7, 1807, in Pennsylvania; son of Barney and Polly (App) Buck. The grandparents of our subject, on both sides, were soldiers in the Revolutionary war. To the grandfather of John, our subject, were born six children, four sons and two daughters. On his mother's side, were born the following children: John, Leonard, Frederick, Matthias, Catharine, ———, Susan and Polly. John and Leonard were in the war of 1812. Mr. Buck, our subject, was raised a farmer. At the age of 18, he went to learn the carpenter and joiner's trade. About the year 1830, he moved to Canada, where he engaged at his trade. Six years later, in June 17, he was married to Isabella Potter, born Oct. 19, 1815, in County Tyrone, Ireland, daughter of Robert and Sallie (Matheson) Potter. Mrs. Buck emigrated with her uncle to Canada in 1831, landing in Toronto. Mrs. Buck was of a family of three children, she having one brother, Robert; her sister was Rosania. In 1839, he emigrated West to Akron, Summit Co., where he lived seven years, and carried on his trade. In 1846, he located in this township, on the farm now owned by Daniel Wise, purchasing 45 acres, remaining here until about the year 1871, when he purchased 117 acres, where he now resides. Four children have been born him, three living, viz.: George, born March 28, 1836, married Augusta Brainard, they now reside in Michigan, Gratiot Co.; James, born Oct. 21, 1837, now in Michigan, married daughter of Seth Lewis; James was a soldier in the late war; Hulda J., born March 1, 1848, now the wife of Madison Rice; they were married Jan. 1, 1867; he was born Aug. 6, 1846, in Madison Co., N. Y., son of Johnson and Chloe (Inman) Rice; Madison came West with his parents when he was but 7 years of age. His father yet resides in the township. His wife died in 1863. Mr. Rice and wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church and now reside with Mr. Buck. Mr. Buck is one of the self-made men in the township. He began poor, had nothing but his hands and a good resolution when he started in life, but, with the assistance of his faithful wife, he has obtained a good home and competency.

B. A. BISSELL, farmer and carpenter; P. O. Chatham Center; born July 1, 1836, in Otsego Co., N. Y.; son of John and Harriet M. (Parker) Bissell. He was born in Otsego Co.,



December, 1806; son of Benjamin B., who was born 1782, in Litchfield Co., Conn.; his father was Isaac Bissell, of Welsh ancestry. Harriet Parker was born in February, 1816, in Franklin Co., Mass., daughter of Levi, who was born in New Haven, Conn. He was a son of Eliakim, who was a soldier in the war of the Revolution. To Levi were born eight children; but six of the number grew to maturity; two of them now survive. Benjamin Bissell's mother, before marriage, was Lorain Johnson; her father, Daniel, was also a participant in the war of the Revolution. To Benjamin Bissell were born eight children, seven of the number growing to maturity, viz.: Hulda, Daniel J., John B., Ruby, Isaac, Lois B. and Henry. Benjamin B., the grandfather of B. A., came west to Medina, in 1846, and engaged in the grocery and produce business. His death occurred in 1859; that of his wife four years previous. Both were members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. John B. and family emigrated West in 1852, arriving here in April, locating in the eastern part of this township. Our subject was brought up to be familiar with carpenter's tools; his father being a tradesman in that line, his son naturally took up this trade, learning it of his father. July 3, 1857, our subject married Sally Fellows, who was born Aug. 22, 1837, in New York State. She was a daughter of Henry and Polly (Porter) Fellows. After Mr. Bissell was married, he located on the place he now owns. Of seven children born, six are living, viz.: Henry J., Riley Austin, Bradley L., Mary E., Edwin O. and Ruby L.; Susan H. died when 9 months old; Henry J. married Anna Hall, and resides on the farm adjoining. Mr. Bissell has but one sister, Harriet N., now the wife of Albert Sanford, of Harrisville Township. Since living at his present place, Mr. Bissell has been engaged at his trade. Has a good farm of 208 acres, or really, is made of two farms, his, and the one purchased of Henry Ware, where his son Henry resides. Being an excellent workman, his services are always in demand. His sons having a desire to learn the trade, he has consented to continue longer in the business, on their account. Mr. Bissell's father and mother are yet living, and reside with him. The elder members of the family are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Politically, the Bissells are Republican, and are warm advocates of the principles of that party.

WILLIAM BRINKER, farmer; P. O. Chatham Center; born in Westmoreland Co., Penn., Aug. 18, 1816; son of George and Mary (Wimble) Brinker. George was a son of Henry, who was a son of Jacob, whose ancestors were from Germany. To George Brinker was born a family of fourteen children, twelve of whom grew to the years of responsibility. Their names were Jacob, Elizabeth, Henry, George, Abram, William, Margaret, Simon, Isaac, Jesse, Mary and Lewis. Of those living are Henry and Jesse, in Marion Co.; Simon, Abram, Lewis and Margaret, in Westmoreland Co., Penn.; Isaac, in Dakota Territory; and William, in this township. The father of Mr. Brinker was born in Northampton Co., Penn., Jan. 5, 1781; his wife, Mary, was born Jan. 15, 1788. William came West with his parents to Wayne Co. at 21 years of age. Nov. 7, 1839, was married to Mary Rice, who was born in June 1819, in Wooster; daughter of Peter Rice, who was a son of Frederick. Peter Rice was married to Elizabeth Vandyke, and by her had ten children, nine of whom grew up—Frederick, Susannah, Mary, Eliza, Anna, Sarah, William, Harriet, Fannie. Of those living are Mary, Eliza, Mrs. William Hendee, of Michigan; Sarah, Mrs. William Inman, of Wellington; Harriet, Mrs. James Hilman, of Sullivan, Ashland Co.; Fannie, Mrs. Green, of Missouri. Elizabeth Vandyke was a daughter of William, to whom were born five sons, four of whom came to maturity. Elizabeth had one brother in the war of 1812, his name was William. After Mr. and Mrs. Brinker were married, they located in Ashland Co., and lived there until spring of 1848, when he came to this place. He first purchased 65 acres of land, for which he paid \$8 per acre. This land was a portion of the "Porter tract." Two years later, he added 66 acres more, for which he paid \$17 per acre. A portion of his land had been in the course of the "windfall," which saved him no little labor in clearing up his land. Mr. Brinker is one of the self-made men of the township; beginning poor, he has, through his own resources, accompanied by the assistance of his companion, secured a farm of 206 acres. Of eight children born him, five are living, viz., Leah A., Irvin A., Curtis W., Frederick S., Sylva E., all residing in the township. All of the family are members of the Congregational Church, Mr. Brinker having been identified





with a church organization since 21 years of age.

LEVI L. CLAPP, farmer; P.O. Chatham Center. The Clapp family trace their origin to one Roger Clapp, who sailed from Plymouth, England, March 20, 1609, in a vessel bearing the name "Mary and John," whose passengers were the first settlers in Dorchester. His wife was Johannah Ford. Roger Clapp afterward became a prominent man in that locality; was commissioned a Captain and placed in charge of Fort Independence, in Boston Harbor, which he commanded for twenty-one years; was one of the founders of the church in Dorchester, and a member of the same for sixty years. Levi, whose name heads these lines, was born June 15, 1810, in Hampshire Co., Mass.; eldest child born to Ira and Judith (Wild) Clapp, who were born, respectively, March 14, 1783, and Jan. 1, 1781. The children of Amasa were Mary, Paul, Salma, Elah, Dorothy, Ira, Amos, Lyman, Moses and Morris. Hiring out to work at \$8 per month, he, after a few years of patient labor, saved enough to justify him in making a purchase. The next thing in order was a helpmeet, which he found in the person of Lucinda House; their nuptials were celebrated April 15, 1835; she was born Nov. 16, 1812, in Chesterfield, Mass., and daughter of Gershom and Mary (Utley) House. He was born in Ashford, Conn., in 1777; she in 1785. Shortly after the marriage of Mr. Clapp, he started West with \$500, to invest in land, but hardly knew where he would go; but, on the boat, met with Lemuel Allis, who was on his way to this county, who induced him to accompany him. He finally purchased 179½ acres at \$5 per acre, paying what he had to spare, and gave his obligation for the remainder. His first work was to build him a cabin for the reception of his wife, yet back in the East. She came out afterward, in company with a family to Hinckley Township, and hired a conveyance to bring her to her husband's home in the woods. Their first meal was eaten off of a high box, which they partook of standing, she having brought the butter and pork from Massachusetts with her. The first year, his time was employed in alternately working for himself, clearing, and working out whenever he could obtain a day's labor. The first fall he put in a small piece of wheat. The next winter, Mrs. Clapp, having had some experience

down East as teacher, organized a subscription school of twenty-six scholars, furnishing the room and fuel and boarding herself, receiving therefor \$2 per week. Mrs. Clapp had taught school in Massachusetts. Mr. Clapp has often worked one-half a day to earn enough money to enable him to get a letter from the post office at Lodi, walking after the same. Notwithstanding disadvantages, he and his faithful wife labored on, and, after years of arduous labor and much self-denial, they are in the possession of an abundance of everything that will conduce to their comfort and happiness, having over 360 acres of choice land, and adorned with excellent farm buildings. To them have been born four children, viz.: Amasa L., of this township; Julia M., of St. Louis, the wife of Alvin Dyer, who is a reporter for the *Globe-Democrat* and other papers in the city; George T., in Allegan Co., Mich., and Alvin R., on farm adjoining. While Mr. and Mrs. Clapp have been successful in life in acquiring this world's goods, yet they have not done this to the exclusion of laying up treasures above, as they have for forty-five years been consistent members of the Congregational Church.

LUTHER CLAPP, retired farmer; P. O. Chatham Center. Among the representative farmers and self-made men of this township, is the above-mentioned gentleman, who was born Jan. 20, 1813, in Chesterfield Township, Hampshire Co., Mass., son of Ira Clapp, who was born March 14, 1783, and was a son of Amasa, whose great-grandfather was an Englishman, and came to this country three years subsequent to the landing of the Pilgrim Fathers. From this gentleman and his brother, who came with him, have descended a numerous progeny. To Ira Clapp was born a family of five children, three sons and two daughters, who are Levi and Luther, of this township; Sophronia, Dorothy and Ira yet remain on the homestead in Massachusetts. The Clapp family are generally farmers as a class, and of the successful kind, to which vocation our subject was, in early life, quite thoroughly drilled, as well as in the fundamental rules of a common-school education. Aug. 31, 1837, he was united in matrimony to Hannah Jackson, who was born Feb. 25, 1818, in Northampton, Mass.; she was a daughter of Benjamin and Electa (Miller) Benjamin, she being a native of England. Immediately after the marriage of Mr. Clapp, he



came West, having, when he started, \$300 in money, which he had earned prior to his marriage, working out by the month, which he invested upon his arrival, buying one-half interest in his brother Levi's land and stock and tools, he having preceded him one year; thus engaged in partnership, they continued in this relation for twelve years, at which time there was a division, and each assumed absolute control over their own individual affairs. To Mr. Clapp have been born four children, who are Caroline, since the wife of Jonathan Beach, of this township; Ellen, now Mrs. Silas Moody, of Gratiot Co., Mich.; Adelaide, Mrs. John B. Whitney, and Dyer A., who now resides on the home farm, which consists of 235 acres. Mr. Clapp is now retired from active business, having been successful in his career as a farmer and business man. Mr. Clapp's parents never came to this country to settle, but died in Massachusetts, he Jan. 27, 1850, she Dec. 26, same year, and was, for many years, a member of the Congregational Church. Mr. Luther Clapp and wife, since the spring of 1841, have been members of the same church as that of his parents. His father's family were all very temperate, neither using intoxicating liquors of any kind, or even tobacco, which example has since been ever followed by his descendants, even down to his grandchildren. Although a staunch and standard Republican, yet he has never craved publicity in the official relations of his township, and has declined all invitations to public honors, and been content and best satisfied to remain in the quiet walks of life. His sound judgment and ripe experience in business affairs, and, pertaining to agricultural matters, are worthy of the emulation and practice of the rising generation. He is a liberal patron of the public journals, there being over a dozen of papers and periodicals taken in his family. Has been a patron of the *Cleveland Leader* and *New York Independent* since their commencement.

A. L. CLAPP, farmer and stock-raiser; P. O. Chatham Center; is the eldest child born to Levi L. and Lucinda (House) Clapp; his birth occurred Sept. 20, 1836, in this township. At the age of 21, he set out for himself; his first employment was in a saw-mill for William Packard, for whom he worked one year; afterward for Wales Dyer. Subsequently, he purchased an interest in the same, which firm was

known as Dyer & Clapp, which association lasted one year. April 5, 1860, married Euphemia Talbot, who was born on Oct. 22, 1839, in Madison Co., N. Y., being the eldest of a family of five children, born to Edward and Cynthia (Reynolds) Talbot. In August, 1862, though recently married, left his wife and donned the blue for three years. First enlisted in Co. K, 42d Infantry, and served two years as Wagonmaster. In 1864, was transferred to the 96th O. V. I.; went into the ranks; afterward was advanced to Corporal, and served until the close of the war. Soon after his return home, he engaged in the produce business, residing at Chatham Center. In 1867, he began farming. Since 1869, he has resided on the farm he now owns, which consists of 100 acres. In 1874, he engaged in the fine-stock business, making a specialty of the breeding of thoroughbred short-horn cattle, with Royal Airdrie at the head of his herd. Also of improved American merino sheep and Berkshire swine, and, in this line of stock, has been the leading representative in Chatham Township. Since 1878, has served as President of the agricultural association of the county, his term expiring in 1881. Is a man that is well read in matters pertaining to the stock business, and is a liberal patron of the leading stock journals and agricultural papers of the day, as well as the general news. But one child has been born to him—Edna, whose birth occurred Oct. 14, 1861, deceased Aug. 5, 1864.

A. R. CLAPP, farmer; P. O. Chatham Center; is the youngest child born to Levi and Lucinda Clapp. His first observations were made in this township March 12, 1843; has been raised to the business of his worthy paternal ancestor, and lived with him until his reunion with Martha M. Talbot, who was born Nov. 14, 1848, in this township, daughter of Edward and Cynthia (Reynolds) Talbot. The marriage of Alvin R. was duly solemnized in 1868. Their union has been blessed with three children—Edwin L., born June 10, 1870; Charles B., born Aug. 22, 1876; Clyde, born May 29, 1880. Since his marriage, he has resided on the farm adjoining his father's. As readers, the Clapp family are noted for their generous and liberal patronage of the literary journals and newspapers, as the mail which comes to their address most truthfully attests.

IRA CLEVELAND, farmer; P. O. Chatham Center; was born March 3, 1800, in Sa-





lem, Washington Co., N. Y.; son of Job and Hannah (Clark) Cleveland. The Clevelands descended from one Moses Cleveland, who came from England in 1635, and settled in Woburn, Mass. Both Job and wife were natives of Rhode Island. His father was Deliverance Cleveland, to whom was born four children—Benjamin, Abel, Job and Hannah, who were born in New York, where their parents located when leaving Rhode Island. To Job were born eleven children, who were Anna, Hannah, Daniel, Lydia, Susan, Mary, Roxanna, Job, Ira, Levi and Benjamin; all of them lived to maturity. Of those living are Levi and Benjamin, in Salem; Mary, the wife of Mr. Graves, of Vermont; Roxanna, in Wisconsin, and Ira, of this county and township, who was reared to farming pursuits. Nov. 18, 1821, he was married to Elizabeth Russell, who was born Oct. 10, 1799, in Salem, Washington Co., N. Y., whose parents were William and Submit (Fosgett) Russell. William Russell was born in Washington Co., N. Y., and was Treasurer of that county for many years, and was a son of Ebenezer, born in Connecticut, and was a soldier in the war of the Revolution. His wife was a Wilson before marriage. Job Cleveland, the father of Ira, was in the Revolution, as was also Daniel Clark. Ira's grandfather on his mother's side—he was killed in the battle of Bunker Hill. Job, the brother of Ira, was also a soldier in the war of 1812. After the marriage of Mr. Cleveland, he located on a farm in his native county, where he lived until 1831, when he moved to Akron, Summit Co., where he was engaged in the mercantile business two years; subsequently engaged in farming near Akron. In 1840, he removed to Guilford Township, locating two years, when he moved to his present place of living, where he bought 197 acres of land, situated one mile and a half north of the Center, for which he paid \$8 per acre, upon which there were no improvements. Five years after his arrival, he moved to Mississippi, and, in company with Mr. Blodgett, built a saw-mill, but, as the elements and times seemed to work against them, the enterprise did not prove a financial success, and he returned after two years' Southern experience. Since that time, he has been a constant resident of the township. He has three children living—Elizabeth, Mrs. Suggett; Laura, Mrs. Alfred Samuelson, and Clara, Mrs. Amos

Jump. Mr. Cleveland has a good farm of 315 acres, and, for forty-five years, he and wife have been members of the Congregational Church. He is a solid Republican and a citizen highly esteemed in the community.

SIMEON CONKLIN, farmer; P. O. Lodi; was born in Tioga Co., N. Y., Dec. 14, 1818, the third child born to Jonathan and Lucy (Nicholds) Conklin. Jonathan was born April 23, 1794. Lucy Nicholds was a daughter of Simeon Nicholds. Simeon came West with his parents in 1837, locating in Harrisville. His father was a cooper by trade, which our subject partially learned at home, and would have completed it there, but ran away from his father ere he had it finished. After he left his father's, he completed the same, at which he worked for several years afterward. Feb. 15, 1849, he was married to Laura M. Belding, who was born in Portage Co., Ohio, in January, 1825, daughter of Titus and Lucy (Bostick) Belding, both natives of Vermont. Gershom Bostick, the grandfather of Mrs. Conklin, emigrated West in 1805, and was one of the first settlers in that county. Mr. Belding, the father of Mrs. Conklin, came West with the Bosticks, and was raised in that county, and afterward married his wife out of that family. To Gershom were born three children, Titus being one of two sons, to whom was born a family of twelve children, all of whom grew to man's estate. Of those living, are Melvina, of Iowa, now the wife of Joseph Wilcutt; Sarah, Mrs. Snell, of Minnesota; Mrs. Mary Bosworth, of Michigan; Gershom B., in Stark Co., Ohio, also Omar; Byron, in Findlay, an engineer; Edmund, in Washington, Clerk in the Treasurer's office. Of Mr. Conklin's brothers and sisters, four are living—Phoebe, Mrs. Fleming, Mrs. Matilda W. Cotton; and Charles, now in Minnesota. The parents of Mrs. Conklin were members of the Disciples' Church. Mr. Conklin moved on the farm he now owns in 1849, where he had located his land at \$11 per acre. No improvements had been made on the land. There were 55 acres in the first purchase, and he has since added to it until he has 87. The cabin he erected at his coming, yet stands in the yard as a relic of former days. He has now a good home, and in easy circumstances, the result of the labor and savings of his manhood's years. Mr. and Mrs. Conklin have no children. He is a liberal patron of the leading newspapers of



the day, and is a member of the Republican party.

WILLARD H. COLE, harness-maker, Chatham Center; was born Aug. 1, 1854, in Penfield, Lorain Co., Ohio, son of Hanson and Nancy (Mallard) Cole. Hanson was born in New York State in 1817, and was a son of Walker Cole. Nancy was also a native of New York, and a daughter of John Mallard. Walker Cole came to this county when it was comparatively new; was a farmer, and one of the esteemed citizens of the community in which he resided. His son Hanson was married in Litchfield. To him were born five children; three living—Delia, Abbie and Willard. Willard's father now resides in Strongsville. He resided eight years in Chatham and twenty in Penfield, where W. H. was born. W. H. was raised to farming pursuits, and left home at the age of 19 to do business upon his own account. Six years were spent in the cheese-factory at Chatham Center, in the employ of Maj. Williams. April 15, 1880, he bought out the harness-shop and interest of Andrew Greenwald, and has since been conducting the same. Mr. Cole, though a young man, is, by his integrity, securing to himself a liberal and growing patronage. He employs skilled labor, and, using the best of material and placing his work upon the market at the very lowest prices, he has a promising future before him. Feb. 24, 1875, he was married to Etta Brogan, born in Chester Co., Penn., Oct. 24, 1853, daughter of John and Phoebe (Whitcraft) Brogan, now in La Fayette Township. Two children—Grace and Eva—are born to them. Both Mr. Cole and wife are members of the Congregational Church.

L. C. CRANE, farmer; P. O. Chatham Center; born May 27, 1822, in Schoharie Co., N. Y.; son of Charles A. and Lydia (Fuller) Crane, who were born in Massachusetts March 14, 1797, and Aug. 15, 1800, respectively. They were married Jan. 11, 1817. To them were born ten children—Emily, Lyman C., Ashbil, Lewis L., Elmina, Hannah, Walter, Abigail, John and Sarah. Of the above, six are living—Emily, of La Grange, the wife of Noah Holcomb; L. C., this township; Lewis, in La Grange; Elmina (Mrs. J. Richardson), of Wood Co.; Walter, in Wellington, and Sarah (Mrs. Daniel Sheldon), also of Wellington. John was a soldier, and died in the service. The religious belief of the family has heretofore been of

the Close-Communion Baptist, and politics Democratic. The younger members of the Crane family have been Republican. Mr. Crane, our subject, came West with his parents when he was 14 years of age. They settled in La Grange, Lorain Co., Ohio. Here his parents died—she February 5, 1855, and he Jan. 19, 1878. Mr. Crane was raised a farmer. Jan. 21, 1841, he married Dianah C. Hastings, born in Wilna Township, Jefferson Co., N. Y., Oct. 16, 1829, daughter of Curtis and Polly (Graves) Hastings. Mr. Crane has been engaged in farming. He first purchased 50 acres in Penfield. Came to this county, locating in La Fayette in 1869, purchasing 168 acres where Duncan Nairn now resides, which farm Mr. Crane owned until 1876, when he sold out. Came to this township, purchasing 106 acres on the Smith road, which was settled by A. R. McConnell. Mr. C. remained on the farm until May, 1880. Has since been a resident of the Center. They have but one child living—Mary, born July 5, 1845, now the wife of Edward Goodyear. They now occupy the home farm. They have three children—Charles, George and Edna. All the family are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mr. and Mrs. Crane have lost three children—all died of consumption—Dianah, born Aug. 4, 1842, died at 16; Chester, born March 27, 1851, died at 28 years of age; Ernest, born May 25, 1852, died at 19. Mr. Crane has one adopted daughter—Alice, born July 15, 1861; also one child living with them, named Olive, born March 2, 1869; also Clarence C., their grandson, born Oct. 26, 1876, son of Chester. John Crane, uncle of L. C., died in the war of 1812.

EBENEZER DUSTIN, farmer; P. O. Chatham Center; is a descendant of one of the early settlers of Portage Co.; was born March 5, 1821; son of Seth and Betsey (Redfield) Dustin. The Redfields descended from one Theophilus Redfield, who was born in England in 1682, and came to Connecticut in 1704, and settled in Killingworth one year later. His wife was Priscilla Grinnell. From this family have descended a numerous progeny, several of whom filled important stations in civil and military life. Seth, the father of Ebenezer, emigrated West from New Hampshire in 1813, locating in Portage Co., where he remained until his death. He was one of the pioneers of





that county, and upon his way West passed through Cleveland. It was then a trading-post, there being but a few dwellings in the place. At the time of his location in Suffield, they had to go sixty miles to mill. Soon after Mr. Dustin arrived in Portage Co., he erected a saw-mill in Suffield Township, it being one of the first enterprises of the kind in that locality. To him were born Mandana, now Mrs. Robert Jordan, of Elkhart, Ind.; Sabrina, who died at 23; Cyrena, now Mrs. P. Merrill, of Utah; Sylvanus, of Webster Co., Mo.; Ebenezer, this township; Harriet M., now Mrs. Elisha Ellsworth, in Richfield, Summit Co., Ohio; also George, Chandler and Seth. Ebenezer left home at the age of 17. His first adventure in the way of travel was to Michigan, which, not having sufficient attraction for him, he returned to his native county and learned the blacksmith's trade, which he followed for twenty-five years. At the age of 23, April 4, 1844, he was married to Rebecca Raudenbush, who was born in Berks Co., Penn., October, 1824, daughter of Adam and Barbara (Spone) Raudenbush. They were both born in Reading, Penn., in 1800. To them were born six children, four of whom grew to maturity—Mrs. Dustin; Adam, in Iowa; Isaac, in Indiana, and William, in Michigan. Mrs. Dustin's parents moved West to Portage in 1842, afterward moved to Indiana; remained there three years, then came to this township, where they died. Before Mr. Dustin left Suffield Township, he began farming, which he carried on for eight years, then dropped his trade, and turned his attention exclusively to farming. In 1863, he moved to this county, locating in Hinckley, where he remained until 1869, when he located where he now resides. He has 241 acres of land, and was the first to introduce into the township short-horn cattle. Of a family of ten children born him, six are living—Ina L., now the wife of L. A. Wilson, attorney at law in Cleveland; Harvey E., Nora, now Mrs. L. A. Severcool, of this Township; Erwin D., Allon C. and Bessie L. Harvey E. was a soldier in the late war, and was a member of Co. H, 177th O. V. I., returning home safe. Mr. Dustin has always been a Republican.

BARNEY DANIELS, retired, Chatham Center; is one of the pioneers of this township, and was born July 27, 1798, in Hampshire Co., Plainfield Township, in the "old Bay State." His parents were John and Lucy (Monroe) Dan-

iels; he was born in Bridgewater Township, Plymouth Co., Mass., son of William Daniels, whose death was brought about by being overheated and then immersing himself in cold spring-water. Lucy Monroe was born in Hampshire Co., daughter of Jonathan Monroe. Barney was the third child of a family of twelve children. Seven of the number attained to man's estate. Our subject learned the shoemaker's trade after he left home, which business he followed for several years. Jan. 29, 1822, he married Mehitabel Lincoln, whose birth was Feb. 18, 1794, daughter of Joseph Lincoln. In November, 1832, he emigrated West, in company with Amasa Packard and several other families, who cast their lots in the Buckeye State. Mr. Daniels swapped his farm down East (which, he says, was "one-half rocks and the other portion break-knolls") for 125 acres where he now resides, which, at his coming, presented to his view a wilderness waste. A small log cabin was constructed, after some delay, it requiring three half-days to raise it (inasmuch as he declined furnishing whisky for the occasion). For several years, Mr. Daniels experienced many of the privations and hardships that are endured by the frontiersman. In the spring of 1834, he had but one peck of corn-meal in his house. One Saturday, a neighbor came, who was without *anything* for his family, and craved assistance, which was granted by dividing the meal—all he had. Mr. Daniels then started, in pursuit of work, to Harrisville Township, stating his case to several—that he would work for anything they had to spare that would satisfy hunger. Mr. Daniels was a good woodsman. He rarely went by the trace of the ax upon the tree's side, but would "strike out" through the forest, going miles to his destination, never losing his course. He was the first Supervisor in the township, as well as the first Treasurer. When he came here, there were but eleven voters in the township. He has always indorsed the principles of Jackson and Jefferson. For two years, he served the county as its Treasurer, and for many years has been a member of the Congregational Church; was one of its Ruling Elders. He and his wife were of the few who constituted the first organization, his wife being a member ere she left Massachusetts. Mr. Daniels, before dividing out his land among his children, had 255 acres. He has never changed his res-



idence since he came here, except to remove from his log cabin to his present domicile. He has already passed the age allotted to man, being now past fourscore, yet he is well preserved for one of his years. His faithful companion has passed over before him; her decease occurred in 1873. Of six children born him, but four are living, viz., John, who has settled near by; Henry, in Kalamazoo, Mich.; Lincoln, now a merchant at Grafton, Lorain Co., Ohio; and Susan, now the wife of Esquire Whitman, of this township. Mr. Daniels will be long remembered in the minds of his friends and descendants, long after he has passed to his rest.

CALEB EDSON, farmer; P. O. Chatham Center; was born Dec. 4, 1801, in Willington Township, Tolland Co., Conn. His parents were John and Jerusha (Hatch) Edson. John was a son of Jesse, who was a son of Obed, who was a son of Samuel, whose father was John Edson. The Edson family came from England. Samuel, who was the great-great-grandfather of Caleb, was born near London, and came to America in the latter part of the sixteenth century. The old family Bible, printed in 1781, now in Mr. Edson's possession, tells the following: Jesse was born in Bridgewater, May 24, 1747; had sons and daughters as follows: Caleb, Hannah, Jesse, David, Howard, John, Susannah, Hannah and Elizabeth. Jesse's wife, was Susannah Howard, and he was born March 25, 1748; they were married in 1768. Of those who grew up and raised families were Jesse, Howard, John, David, Hannah and Elizabeth. John Edson was born in Buckland, Franklin Co., Mass., April 8, 1779, and was married to Jerusha Hatch, born in 1779, in Willington, Conn. To them were born five sons and three daughters, viz.: Caleb, Anna, Otis, Jerusha, Almon, Susannah, Dinabur and John B. Our subject, at the age of 8 years, went on the sea, and engaged with his uncle, George Hatch, as cabin-boy, remaining with him about three years. In 1811, he went on board an American man-o'-war ship, Constellation, and sailed in the waters of the Mediterranean. After the breaking-out of the war, he was placed in the naval school, and, after four years' close application, graduated as midshipman; then went on the brig Enterprise, under Capt. Allen; then the brig Philander; afterward sailed on the brig Amelia, which was his sea service. Jan. 15, 1825, was married to Sallie Nelson, born in Southwick Dec. 22, 1801,

daughter of Luther and Sallie (Hall) Nelson. Three years after his marriage, he came West to Cuyahoga Co., where he purchased 108 acres of land. In 1841, he located on the place he now owns, and has since remained. His wife died Feb. 6, 1870, leaving three children—Maria, of Williams Co., wife of Josiah Austin; Celista A., now Mrs. N. W. White, of this township; Phæbe J., Mrs. Frank Mantz. Mr. Edson first purchased 60 acres, afterward added 30 more. The land was formerly owned by Iram Packard. Was married to second wife, April 8, 1872. Her name was Mrs. Rebecca Austin, born in Wallingford, New Haven Co., Conn., in 1806. She died in 1876, leaving no issue. Dec. 8, 1878, he was married to Mrs. Mary Ann Randall, born in New Haven March 18, 1814; was a sister of his second wife. She was a daughter of William and Jane (Cameron) Reed. William was a son of Martin Reed, who came over with La Fayette, and fought under him during the Revolution. The father of Jane Cameron was Daniel, a Highland Scotchman, and when but a cadet, was pressed by the British in the Revolution, and, upon his first opportunity, escaped from them, and came to the States, still wearing his kilt and hose. Mr. Edson is a man of remarkable memory; been a great reader, and has always been a liberal patron of literature; has always borne the part of an honest and worthy member of the commonwealth, and is held in high esteem by all who know him.

D. P. FELLOWS, farmer and stock trader; P. O. Chatham Center; was born Jan. 4, 1836, in Wayne Co., N. Y.; son of Henry and Polly (Porter) Fellows. Henry was born Feb. 14, 1811, in the Empire State; he was a son of William, of Scotch ancestry, and was a soldier in the war of 1812. Polly Porter was born July 20, 1811; daughter of John and Deborah Porter, who were born Nov. 16, 1767, and Jan. 12, 1771, respectively. He died Sept. 28, 1828; she, Jan. 2, 1831. Polly Fellows died March 21, 1840. To John and Deborah Porter were born twelve children, but three of whom are now living—Deborah, in Michigan; Phæbe, in New York; and Betsey, in Geauga Co., Ohio. To Henry Fellows and wife were born four children, viz.: William, who left home when a lad, went off to sea on a "whaler," and never was heard from afterward; Daniel P., in this township; Sallie, Mrs. Benjamin A. Bissell, of this township; and an infant unnamed. Henry,





the father of Daniel P., was a farmer. He came West about 1838, first locating in Litchfield about four years, then purchased a farm of 126 acres of land in this township, which he cleared up, and remained on the same until his death, which occurred Jan. 6, 1873, of typhoid pneumonia. He was a man of strong constitution, and herculean frame; had poor school advantages, but was a great reader, and took a marked interest in the politics of his country. Daniel P. was raised at home. Leaving the parental roof at his majority, he began to work for himself, hiring out by the month; afterward rented land, and taught school, and, in fact, turned his attention to *any labor* that promised the most satisfactory returns. Sept. 28, 1857, was married to Philena Lewis, who was born Sept. 27, 1841, daughter of Elisha and Jane (Huntsman) Lewis. Mrs. Fellows died October, 1865, leaving three children, but one living, Philena J., born Dec. 2, 1859, now the wife of Francis M. Martin, of La Fayette Township; Mary and Lewis were buried in one grave. April 17, 1867, was married to Mrs. Elma E. Main, who was born Nov. 25, 1841. She was a daughter of Allen and Polly (Palmer) Coulter, to whom were born three children. Mrs. Fellows was first married to Alexander Main, Oct. 17, 1858. He was a son of Alexander and Elizabeth Main, of Harrisville Township, and died in the service, March 28, 1863—had enlisted for three years in Company D, 128th O. V. I.—leaving one son, Allen C., born May 15, 1862. To Mr. and Mrs. Fellows has been born one child, Frank P. Mr. Fellows' first purchase of land was 26 acres in Harrisville Township. Located on his present farm in March, 1872; his farm, consisting of 186 acres, lies in the southern part of the township. Mr. Fellows is an energetic and enterprising farmer. He began empty-handed, but has been diligent and successful. He has traded considerably in real estate, and built the cheese-factory at the Center, and, aside from carrying on his farm, is one of the leading stock traders in the township. Is a liberal patron of the public journals, has a pleasant home, a cheerful companion, and is a sound Republican.

E. W. FRITZ, blacksmith; P. O. Chatham Center; born April 17, 1841, in Akron, Summit Co., Ohio; son of Jeremiah and Maria (Hyde) Fritz; both were natives of Lancaster Co., Penn. He was born Jan. 8, 1812; she in June, one

year later. The brothers of Jeremiah were Jacob, Philip, John, Amos, Samuel, Uriah Martin; had but one sister, whose name was Catharine. Jeremiah came West to Summit Co. when young; married his wife in Wayne Co. She was a daughter of Henry Hyde, whose wife was Maria Baughman. Mr. Fritz settled in Summit Co. after marriage, and engaged in farming. To him were born twelve children—of those who grew up are Mrs. Alvira Damon, Mrs. Catharine E. G. Dixon, Delta Co., Mich.; Henry, who died in Texas; was Lieutenant in Co. K, 8th O. V. I.; Dexter was killed in Georgia, July, 1864; was a member of Co. B, 124th O. V. I.; he enlisted first in the 8th O. V. I., in 1861, in the three months' service; then re-enlisted for three years; but met his death as above stated. He had participated in all the battles of the regiment. Ezra comes next in order of birth; then Martin, of Lorain Co.; George, in Harrisville Township; John and Milton—the former in this township—the latter in Litchfield, on the homestead, where his father located in 1847, where he now resides. Martin Fritz, the grandfather of our subject, was a soldier in the war of the Revolution; his sons, John and Jacob, in the war of 1812. The Fritz family being represented in the three wars of our country in as many generations. Ezra began learning his trade in Lorain Co. The war breaking out, he cast his lot with the "boys in blue;" enlisting Sept. 22, 1861, in Co. B, 42d O. V. I., for three years, and served his time, receiving an honorable discharge in October, 1864, having participated in the many battles of his regiment, some of which were Middle Creek, Chickasaw Bluffs, Cumberland Gap, Arkansas Post, Champion Hills, Thompson's Hill, Black River, Vicksburg, on Red River Expedition and at Jackson. He came through without serious wounds. Upon his return to peaceful pursuits, he resumed his trade. After its completion, he set up in business for himself, first at La Grange, with a partner, under the firm name of Smith & Fritz, which association lasted but one year; then went to Penfield, where he ran a shop six years; then set up in Spencer; but, the location not being to his interests, he remained a short time, and came here to Chatham Center in August, 1871, and has since continued, and is doing a thriving business. In November, 1865, was married to Harriet Forbes, who was born in Litchfield Township, Jan. 15, 1845, daughter



of Alexander and Cornelia (Randall) Forbes; his father's name was Alexander. Both families are from the Empire State. To Alexander and Cornelia were born ten children: but seven of them are living—Medwin, in Wood Co., Ohio; Mary E., in Wellington (Mrs. David Snyder); Harriet, Mrs. Fritz; George, in Dakota, railroad engineer; Levi, Kansas, in cattle business; Charles, in Illinois; Hiram, at home, in Litchfield. Mr. Fritz has one son, De Forest W., born May 6, 1872.

ANSEL FROST, farmer; P. O. Chatham Center; born June 14, 1838, in Richfield Township, Summit Co., Ohio; the youngest of a family of four children, born to Jewett N. and Eunice (King) Frost. He was born in Riga Township, Monroe Co., N. Y., in 1800; she in Wheatland Township, same county and State, Aug. 16, 1802. She was a daughter of William King, whose wife's maiden name was Strong. The Frost family came West about the year 1827; their vehicle was an ox-cart drawn by oxen, Cleveland being a small town at this time. Mr. Frost purchased 100 acres of land in Richfield Township, for which he paid \$5 per acre; but few improvements were made at this time in the township. Mr. Frost had taught school several years in New York, and his services as teacher were brought into requisition in his newly found home. But farming was his business, having at the time of his death, which occurred in 1845, 150 acres of land. Mr. Frost was for many years a member of the Christian Church, commonly known as the Disciples, and was a man of integrity. Mrs. Frost subsequently married Dougall McDougall, a native of Canada, but came West many years ago and settled in Hinckley Township; he died about 1871, being 87 years of age. His widow still survives him and resides with Ansel. She is also a member of the Christian Church. In 1865, our subject located in this township, one mile and a half north of the Center, where he has 240 acres of land. Dec. 30, 1858, he was married to Sarah Kent, born April 13, 1838, in Bath, Summit Co., daughter of John and (Thankful) Sears, both natives of New York, and early settlers of Summit Co. They had six children born to them, but three living—Mrs. Frost; Roxie, who is the wife of William Frost, the brother of Ansel. They reside in Brocksville, Cuyahoga Co., and have three children; Jane is in Bath, Summit Co., the wife of Charles

Webster, and had three children. To Mr. Frost have been born the following children: Mary Iona, Elva M. and Effie A. living; Gracie died at the age of 8 years; Elbert, at the age of 2 years; and Henry, when a babe of 6 months. Mrs. Frost is a member of the Disciples' organization. Mr. Frost is a member of Harrisville Lodge, No. 137, A. F. & A. M. Also of Empire Lodge, No. 346, I. O. O. F., located in Royalton, Cuyahoga Co.

ORRIN GRIDLEY, farmer; P. O. Chatham Center; born Nov. 4, 1811, in Paris Township, Oneida Co., N. Y.; son of Shubael and Sallie (Tremain) Gridley. Shubael was a son of David, who was a native of Connecticut, and raised a large family, among whom were Shubael, Jared, James, Chauncey and David. Of those born to Shubael, were Reuben, Mabel, Sybil, Orrin, Mary, Oliver, George W., Samantha, Emily and Sophronia. Sarah and Henry died young. Of these living, are Sybil, now Mrs. James Landon, of Litchfield; Orrin, this township; Mary, in Bates Co., Mo.; Oliver, in Lodi; Samantha, now Mrs. Alonzo H. Peckham, this township; Emily, now Mrs. Orrin Rogers; also—Sophronia, now Mrs. Abel Sheldon, in Missouri, and George W. in La Fayette Township. David Gridley, the grandfather of our subject, came out with his family in 1817, and purposed settling at Rising Sun, in the south part of Indiana, but finding the country sickly, they moved to this State the year following, and spent one year near Columbus. Shubael, the father of Orrin, moved his family to this county in 1819, locating in Westfield, north of Friendsville, more commonly known as Morse's Corners; here he remained until his death, which occurred about the year 1836, that of his wife in 1841. He experienced all the inconveniences of a frontiersman. At the age of 16, Orrin went to learn the tan and currier's trade, serving his time at Wadsworth, and carried on his trade at Lodi, in Harrisville Township. June 12, 1839, he was married to Lydia H. Palmer, born Aug. 12, 1817, in Montgomery Co., N. Y., daughter of Thomas and Rebecca (Snow) Palmer. Thomas was a son of Ephraim, who was a son of Joseph. Ephraim was a soldier in the war of 1812. Thomas Palmer was born June 13, 1787, in Middlesex, N. J.; his wife, Rebecca, Oct. 1, 1790, in Montgomery Co., N. Y. They were married in Genesee Co., N. Y., May 30, 1815. To them were born Margaret, Lydia, Joseph, Eliza, Chloe and





Ephraim. The family came West about the year 1833, and six years later, moved to Kane Co., Ill. He died in La Salle Co., Ill. in 1866; his wife dying soon after his advent to Illinois. Of the family living, are Mrs. Gridley, Joseph and Ephraim, in La Salle Co., Ill.; Eliza, now Mrs. Lorin Williams, in Washington Co., Iowa; Chloe, now Mrs. N. L. Post, in Livingston Co., Ill. Thomas Palmer settled on the farm now occupied by Mr. Gridley, in 1833, and, before moving to Illinois sold it to another party, who failing to pay for it, it came back upon his hands, and was finally purchased by Mr. Gridley, who moved on the same in 1844. Four children have been born to Mr. Gridley, three are living—Henrietta, born June 23, 1843, and was married March 9, 1871, to Isaac Duke, born in Sandusky Co., Ohio. They have two children—Cora M. and Orrin I. They removed to Page Co., Iowa, in the fall of 1871, where they have since resided. Mr. Duke is one of the prominent farmers in that locality. He was a soldier in the late war; was in the 2d O. V. C.; his brother William was a prisoner in Andersonville and Libby. Sarah A., born Feb. 22, 1847, the second daughter of Mr. Gridley, now resides in Decatur Co., Ind., the wife of William Cooper. They have two children—Lydia M. and Lillian M. Shubael was born June 28, 1849; his wife was Lepha Eddy, whose parents were among the early settlers in this township. They reside in Franklin Co., Iowa. Have three children—Novella, Eddie and Orrin. Mr. Gridley and wife and entire family are members of the M. E. Church.

REV. SAMUEL GARVER, farmer and minister; Chatham Center; born Oct. 8, 1825, in Fayette Co., Penn.; son of Jacob and Mary (Lucas) Garver; Jacob was born near Hagers-town, in Maryland, June 16, 1800, and was a son of David Garver, to whom were born four children, who were Samuel, Jacob, Betsey and Susan. Jacob, the father of our subject, was a minister of the Gospel of the German Baptist persuasion, and was an Elder in that body for forty years. He emigrated West in 1827, landing in Chester Township, Wayne Co., April 12. His first purchase was 90 acres, for which he paid about \$6 per acre; afterward added 160 more, for which he paid \$4; he remained here until his death, which occurred in May, 1879. To him and wife were born a family of sixteen children, whose names are Eliza, Anna, Sam-

uel, Mary, David, George, Margaret, Lydia, Sarah, Amos, Catharine, Jesse, Samantha, Melinda, Almira and John. Fourteen of the above lived to be married and had families; thirteen of them are yet living. David in Michigan; Amos, commission merchant in Philadelphia; George, a minister in Montgomery Co., this State; Jesse, a farmer in same locality; John, in Union Co., Ind.; Margaret, Mrs. John Werts, in Westfield Township; Mary, Mrs. John Pittenger, of Spencer Township; Sarah, of Wayne Co.; Mrs. David Miller; Lydia, Mrs. A. McMicken, of Marion Co., Iowa; Melinda, of Wayne Co., the wife of H. C. Fortney; Almira, in Kansas. Mrs. James Rennie; Catharine, Mrs. B. Emerich, of Wayne Co.; Samantha was married and died at the age of 19; Anna raised a family; Eliza died when 17. Jacob, the father of the above numerous progeny, had at the time of his death seventy-two grandchildren and fifteen great-grandchildren. Samuel, our subject, left home at the age of 21; his marriage was duly celebrated April 22, 1847; took to wife Sarah Rice, born Nov. 30, 1823, in Wayne Co., Ohio, daughter of Christian and Charlotte Hine; both were born in Westmoreland Co., Penn. Christian was a son of Frederick, who lived to be 96 years of age. Christian Rice had eleven children born him; eight of the number grew to maturity, who were Betsey, Simon, Frederick, Susan, Henry, Sarah, Mary and Margaret. Mr. Garver took up his residence in this county in Spencer Township, in the spring of 1849, purchasing 100 acres at \$10 per acre, 20 acres cleared. In 1859, moved to the farm he now owns, purchasing 107 acres at \$32, of Ezra Truesdell, the first settler; has since added to the same until he now owns 287 acres. The Garver family are as thrifty and enterprising as they are numerous; of the extensive family above mentioned, there are none of them worth less than \$10,000, from these figures to \$50,000, apiece. Nine children have been born to him, eight living—Margaret, Mrs. Edwin Parent, of Spencer Township; Jacob, at home; Charlotte, Mrs. Daniel Martin, of Wayne Co., Ohio; Lydia, Mrs. Meno Meshler, of Summit Co., Ohio; Simon, a teacher; John, Daniel and David N. For twenty-five years, Mr. Garver has been a member of the German Baptist Church, and for twenty-two years he has officiated as minister of the Gospel, and has been instrumental in



doing much good in the capacity in which he has labored. He has charge of the Black River German Baptists of the township, also of the Mahoning Church.

J. B. GEISINGER, farmer; P. O. Chatham Center; born in Bucks Co., Penn., April 21, 1826; son of George and Barbara (Baum) Geisinger. He was born in Northampton Co. in 1808; he was a son of John, to whom were born David, Jacob, Jonathan and George. Jacob moved from Canada to Wadsworth, this county, and raised a family of children. Of the children born to George, were Hannah, John B., Abram and Henry; of these, only two are living—J. B. and Henry, who now reside in Philadelphia; Hannah and Abram died young. Barbara Baum was born in the same county as her husband; she was a daughter of Abram Baum, whose wife's maiden name was Margaret Myers. To them were born Henry, Peter, Barbara, Katie, Hannah and Susan, all of whom are deceased except Susan. The parents of our subject dying, he was, at an early age, thrown upon his own resources; at the age of 12, he went to live with his grandparents, with whom he lived until 16 years of age. He then hired out to work on a farm; at the age of 18, he went to learn the carpenter's trade, which being completed, he worked as journeyman two years, then engaged in business for himself. March 14, 1850, he married Mary A. Myers, born Oct. 11, 1825, in Bucks Co., Penn., daughter of Isaac and Christina (Gottshall) Myers. He was a son of Christian. Christina's mother's maiden name was Barbara Chratz. To Isaac Myers, were born John, Magdaline, Barbara, Isaac, Mary A., Christina and Elizabeth, all of whom are residents of Pennsylvania, except Isaac, who resides in Wayne Co., Ohio. In April of the same year, John B. was married; he came West, first to Wadsworth, where he bought a small piece of ground, and engaged for six years in the millwright business; then worked some time in the oil mills at River Styx and at Wadsworth. In 1863, he moved to Westfield, where he purchased a farm in Westfield Township, at Morse's Corners, which he owned one year, then purchased a farm north of there, near G. Burry's, which he sold after one year's occupancy, then rented a farm in that township three years; in 1869, he moved to the farm he now owns. Of his children living, are Chris-

tina; Mrs. Robert Stigler, of Lancaster Co., Neb.; Susan, the wife of Orrin Brinker, of this township; Lizzie, now Mrs. Alvin Shaw, of Lodi; William, now in Spencer, married Emma Auble; David, Sarah, Jonathan and Edwin at home. Mr. Geisinger has carried on building and contracting several years, employing several workmen. Although he began life poor, he has accumulated a good property, having 121 $\frac{1}{2}$  acres of land. He and wife are members of the Mennonite Church; her parents Lutherans.

E. B. GILBERT, farmer; P. O. Chatham Center; was born March 2, 1818, in Litchfield Co., Conn.; son of Orrin and Mary (Barber) Gilbert; Orrin was a son of Abner, whose ancestry were of English stock. To Orrin and Mary Gilbert were born a family of eleven children, six sons and five daughters; of those living are Emily L., Albert L., William W., Harriet L., Edwin B., Abigail M. and Joseph L. William W. is in Iowa; Maria in Michigan; Emily L. in Williams Co.; E. B. in this township; all the others are residents of Summit Co., Ohio. Orrin Gilbert emigrated West in 1828, locating in Stowe, Summit Co., where he cleared up a farm and remained on the same until his death, which occurred in the year 1846. Edwin B. was raised to farming; leaving home at 23, he launched out for himself. In February, 1843, he was married to Nancy R. Brainard, whose birthplace was in Massachusetts; she was born in 1824. She died four years afterward, leaving one son—Harlow B.—living in Buffalo, Neb. Oct. 13, 1850, Mr. Gilbert was married to Anna A. Rice, born May 9, 1832, in Hampshire Co., Mass., daughter of Statham and Anna (Taylor) Rice. He was born in 1804; she was his senior by three years. The family came West in 1833, locating in this township. Mrs. Rice died May 20, 1872. To them were born eight children, but six living—Anna E. now Mrs. Woodward; Celesta, now Mrs. Richards; Augustus M., Micajah T., Adaline and herself (Mrs. Gilbert). Mr. Gilbert located on the farm he now owns, in 1850, situated two miles east of the Center. His farm consists of 122 acres, and was settled by one Culver. Mr. Gilbert is one of the safe and substantial farmers in his neighborhood. He has two sons by his last marriage—Ernest E. and Ellsworth M. Mrs. Gilbert had three brothers who were in the late war—Micajah, Augustus





and Daniel—the two former serving through the entire struggle, and returned safely home; Daniel died of disease in hospital. Mr. Gilbert's father was an Episcopalian; E. B. and entire family are members of the M. E. Church. Mr. Gilbert is a liberal patron of the newspapers, and has always voted the straight Republican ticket.

MRS. LUCY REYNOLDS HANCOCK, farmer; P. O. Chatham Center; born March 22, 1820, in Cazenovia Township, Madison Co., N. Y., a daughter of Colonel and Phoebe (Avery) Reynolds. He was a son of Francis, whose father was John Avery, of pure English ancestry, to whom were born Henry, Francis and Betsey. Francis Reynolds was born Aug. 15, 1750. His wife was Martha Tibbetts, who was born April 22, 1748. To them were born a family of seven children—Dorcas, Mary, Francis, Colonel, Joe, Anna and Martha. Colonel, son of Francis, was born Oct. 17, 1786, in Washington Co., R. I. His wife, Phoebe, was born in Herkimer Co., N. Y., Oct. 31, 1795. Their marriage was celebrated Dec. 29, 1813, in Herkimer Co. To them were born the following offspring: Camilla, Cynthia, Mary, Lucy, Francis, Martha, Avery, Lucetta, Phoebe, Theresa, Ermina and Job—all of whom lived to raise families. Phoebe Avery was a daughter of Punderson E. His wife was Lavina Barnes. They were a family of strong patriotic proclivities, and, at the time the colonists were struggling for freedom, the family turned out in force, Lavina Barnes having seven brothers in the war of the Revolution at one time. Punderson Avery was among the number, then but a lad, who volunteered, and went to Ft. Griswold after the massacre, and helped haul the wounded and slain to their several homes. Mrs. Hancock came West, with her sister, in the spring of 1842, to Liverpool Township, this county. She had been engaged in teaching in the East, and pursued her vocation for one year and a half after her arrival. Meeting with Elisha Wilmot, they became acquainted, and an intimacy sprang up which ripened into an engagement. After her return to New York, Mr. Wilmot went to her home, and married her Oct. 1, 1844, and returned with his bride to his home in Liverpool, with whom she lived happily until Nov. 13, 1854, when the death angel bore him away from her companionship. He was born Sept. 20, 1821, son of Ebenezer and Harriet (Pardy) Wil-

mot. March 15, 1859, she was married to her present husband, James A. Hancock, who was born March 25, 1817, in Rutland Co., Vt., son of Lot and Persis (Hubbard) Hancock. Mr. Hancock had been twice married previous to his union with his present wife. His first wife was Harriet Tillson; by her, he had three children—Charles, who died of disease in the late war, was a member of the 76th O. V. I.; George, at St. Helen's, Ore.; and Tillson, who is of a roving disposition, now in the Far West. Mr. Hancock's second wife was a Vaughn; by her he had no children. Mr. Hancock came to Liverpool when he was 18 years of age, and has since been a resident of the county, and is one of the respected members of the township. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Church, and have been for forty years past. Mrs. Hancock's ancestry entertained various religious tenets; some were Quakers, Universalists and Presbyterians. She read the Bible, and, taking this as her guide, her opinions were soon molded and permanently fixed, and she has ever since been a conscientious Christian worker. Mr. and Mrs. Hancock have 118 acres of land.

ALONZO H. HYATT, farmer; P. O. Chatham Center; was born March 4, 1826, in Jefferson Co., N. Y., and is the fifth child born to Aaron and Prudence (Ross) Hyatt. Alonzo was raised a farmer, and learned the spinner's trade in the early part of his manhood. April 1, 1852, he married Mary Main, who was born in Aberdeenshire, Scotland, Nov. 27, 1832. She is a daughter of Alexander and Elizabeth Main, of Harrisville Township. After Mr. Hyatt's marriage, he located in Calumet Co., Wis., where he engaged in farming, where they lived until November, 1868, when they returned to this township. The climate they enjoyed in Wisconsin, and were doing very well, but, not having the proper educational facilities, and Mr. Hyatt, having daughters to educate, could not follow out the bent of his inclinations in this direction, and returned to this county. Since 1869, he has resided on the farm he now owns, which was settled by one Thayer. Mr. Hyatt has three daughters, viz.: Flora (now a teacher), Laura and Bertha (at home). The deceased are Cyrus and Frank. He and wife are members of the church at Lodi. Both he and family are great readers, and are patrons of a goodly number of papers and journals. His farm of 50 acres is well kept, and is the re-



sult of his own labor, accompanied by that of his worthy wife. He has always been a Republican in principle.

**J. J. JOHNSON**, farmer; P. O. Chatham Center; was born in Canaan Township, Wayne Co., Nov. 26, 1839, son of James and Ann Caughey. Both were born in 1804, in Lancaster Co., Penn. The grandfather of our subject was named James, and was of Irish descent. His mother's maiden name was Jane Andrews, of Scotch ancestry. James had but one brother, John. The Johnson who shot Tecumseh, as recorded in history, was a second cousin to James. The father of J. J. came West about the year 1832, locating in Canaan Township, where he purchased a farm partially improved. To him were born seven children, two sons and five daughters, whose names are Franklin, Eliza, Phoebe, John, Lucy, Harriet and —. J. J. was among the "boys in blue" during the late rebellion. Enlisted in October, 1861, in Co. K, 16th O. V. I., and served three years and twenty days. Participated in the battles of Chickasaw Bluffs, Thompson and Champion Hills, Black River Bridge, at the retaking of Jackson, Miss., and at the siege of Vicksburg and others, and was twice slightly wounded, and lost the hearing of one ear from the effects of concussion by the bursting of a shell. Receiving an honorable discharge, he returned home in November, 1864. Afterward taught school one term, and for several years was engaged as traveling salesman and as canvasser, in which he was quite successful. In January, 1871, he was united in wedlock to Catharine Kindeg, born in Milton Township, Wayne Co., Feb. 22, 1839, daughter of Daniel and Catharine (Hyde) Kindeg, both natives of Pennsylvania. He was a son of Daniel. Catharine Hyde was a daughter of Henry Hyde, a native of Germany. The Hyde family emigrated West to Wayne Co. when the country was new, locating in Milton Township. Mrs. Johnson was of a family of twelve children, seven of whom are living, viz.: George, John, Maria, Priscilla, Catharine, David and Flora. After Mr. Johnson was married, he located on the farm he now owns, consisting of 100 acres. Six children have been born to him; five living—William F., Mary A., James C., Dora E. and an infant. Mr. Johnson is a staunch Republican, and is a hard-working, industrious man.

**SETH LEWIS**, farmer; P. O. Chatham Cen-

ter; born Sept. 30, 1809, in Otsego Co., N. Y.; son of Seth and Elizabeth (Rogers) Lewis, both of whom were natives of Connecticut. Seth was a son of Cyrus. The Lewis family came West about the year 1821, locating in Harrisville Township, on the farm where Mrs. Elisha Lewis now resides. There were seven children born to Seth and Elizabeth; but two of the number are living, viz., Seth, the subject of this sketch, and Selinda A., now Mrs. John Jason, of Harrisville. Seth did not leave home until 25 years of age; during this time was at work for his father. July 4, 1837, he was married to Phoebe P. Clark, who was born in Catharine Township, Tioga Co., N. Y. Her birth occurred Oct. 1, 1820. She was a daughter of Peter and Hannah (Taylor) Clark. Peter was born in Orange Co., N. Y.; son of Elias, a native of Connecticut, and a Colonel in the Revolution, and rode with Gen. Washington. Hannah Taylor was a daughter of John Taylor, a native of Scotland. Mrs. Lewis was of a family of thirteen children, nine of whom grew to maturity. The family came to this township in 1832, and remained here until their removal to Michigan in 1849, where they both died in the year 1858. Sept. 5, 1837, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis located on the farm they now own, which was but slightly improved at the time of their purchase. Of six children born to them, but two are living—Lester Allen, in Granger Township, who has three children—Harry S., Dolly and Charles Foster; Harriet J., now Mrs. James Buck, of Gratiot Co., Mich. They have five children—Allen D., who resides with his grandparents; Jennie A., Minnie M., John L. and Walter. Mr. Lewis lost one son—Shepherd E., who died at the age of 26. Mr. Lewis has 76 acres of land; is a man of quiet demeanor, taking but little interest in matters outside of his own home and neighborhood circle. Mrs. Lewis is a lady that is well read in the general topics of the day, and always has had a desire to store her mind with the best knowledge and literature of the time. For forty-six years, they have been professors of religion, and are of Methodist belief.

**EZRA LEONARD**, farmer; P. O. Chatham Center; is a son of one of the early settlers in this township, who came here in 1835, cotemporaneous with Levi L. Clapp and some other early arrivals. Ezra was born Feb. 28, 1815, in what was then Ontario, now Yates Co., N. Y. He was the third of a family of ten children, all





of whom grew to maturity, whose parents were Truman and Roxanna (Allis) Leonard: both were born in Massachusetts. His native place was in Worthington. He was a son of Ezra, and of Irish descent. The grandfather of Roxanna Allis was a Scotch missionary. Truman Leonard emigrated West with his family in July, 1835, locating in this township, one mile north of the Center, where he purchased 300 acres of land in a wild state; settling on this, he cleared it up, and remained on the same until his death. He was not a man to mingle much in political matters, yet a man of good information for the chances afforded him. He was always a staunch and reliable member of the Whig party. At the age of 21, Ezra went to Akron, and began work in the Stone Mills, operated by Beach & Co., and, in less than four years from the day he entered the mill as a novice, he had progressed so rapidly, that he was then placed in charge of the same, the mill having a capacity of 300 barrels per day. In a short time after his taking charge of the mill as head miller, his flour received the first premium at the New York Agricultural Society in 1843, it receiving the diploma over all of the many competitors. He became so thoroughly established as a first-class miller, that he retained the position for thirty-four consecutive years. He has been thrice married, first in 1842, to Alvira Weston, born in Cuyahoga Co., daughter of Asa Weston. She died in 1848, leaving two children, George M., now in Akron, and Alvira D., now Mrs. Frank Wadsworth. He was next married to Electa Wadsworth, daughter of Sardan and Alma Wadsworth. She died shortly afterward, leaving no issue. His present wife was Mary M. Slater, a native of Massachusetts, a lady of education and marked intelligence, having, for several years, been a teacher in the public schools. Mr. Leonard has 240 acres of land in this township, which his father settled, besides valuable property in Akron. He cast his first vote for Henry Clay, and has always been an enthusiastic supporter of the Republican party. For five years past, he has been living on his farm, and engaged in farming and stock-raising. His stock is of the *best*, his cattle being about seven-eighths pure, and his horses, of which he keeps a goodly number, are of the best stock, which he breeds for the market; and, in the breeding of the same, he takes especial pride.

H. MORGAN, farmer; P. O. Chatham Cen-

ter; born Sept. 8, 1822, in the town of Sheffield, Berkshire Co., Mass. His parents were Elijah and Polly (Strong) Morgan. Elijah was the youngest of a family of fourteen children. The greater portion of the family were born in Litchfield Co., Conn., the remainder of them in Berkshire Co., Mass., where James removed and lived until his death. Elijah and his wife were born in Massachusetts. To them, were born a family of eight children, seven lived to be grown, five now living—Lydia, in Burbank, Wayne Co., Ohio, who married John Perkins; George, in Michigan; Harriet, married John Barry; Hiram, this township, and Phoebe A. Prentice, of Lodi, relict of Squire W. W. Prentice. Elijah came West in June, 1829; came first to Lodi, and settled in Harrisville Township, and cleared up the farm now owned by Charles Fenstermaker. He died on this farm in October, 1848. His wife survived him until 1877. Upon this farm, our subject took his first lesson in pioneering; remained with his father until Nov. 17, 1847, at which time he was wedded to Delilah Sanford, born May 28, 1830, in Erie Co., Penn., daughter of Beers and Rachel (Ackley) Sanford. After Mr. Morgan was married, he remained about three years on his father's farm. In 1851, he purchased 60 acres of W. W. Prentice, at \$13.66 per acre, upon which place there was a small cabin, and a partial improvement; here he located, and has since been a constant resident, remaining in the log cabin until 1871, when he built his present neat and comfortable dwelling. In 1857, August 5, after having his entire crop safely stored in his barn, it was struck by lightning, all destroyed, including harness, tools, etc.; with the exception of about \$225 insurance, was a total loss. Has three children—Adaline, Mrs. Stephen Fellows, this township; Evalaide, at home; Orville, in Jasper Co., Mo., who married Alice Sheldon, Orlow died at 14 years of age. Mr. Morgan has a comfortable and pleasant home, his yard being tastily set out with evergreens and hedge. For thirty-one years Mr. Morgan has been a member of the M. E. Church. His father was a Whig; he a consistent Republican.

M. MOODY, M. D., Physician, Chatham Center; is one of the practicing physicians of this county, whose birth and entire life have been in connection with Medina Co.; was born in this township Nov. 29, 1843. His parents were E.



S. and Cynthia (Brown) Moody, both of whom have been citizens of the county for many years. The mother of Milo is a relative of John Brown of historic fame, whose "body," as the song goes, "lies moldering in the grave as we go marching on." Our subject was raised on the farm, but early in life entertained a desire to enter the medical profession. At the age of 17, he began teaching, and taught two terms. At the age of 18, he began the study of medicine, reading with Dr. J. K. Holloway, of Chester Co., Penn., and pursued his studies until his graduation, taking his first course of lectures at the Cleveland Medical College; second at Charity Hospital, now known as the University of Wooster, where he graduated in the spring of 1865, and began practicing at Howard, Center Co., Penn.; returning then to this county, he began practice in this township in January, 1866, and has since continued without interruption or loss of time to the present. Nov. 17, 1869, he married Celestia A. Packard, who was born in this township Sept. 10, 1843, daughter of Josiah and Elizabeth (Young) Packard; he was born in Plainfield, Hampshire Co., Mass., May 11, 1816, and was a son of Amasa Packard. He came West to this township in 1832. Elizabeth Young was born in Harrisville Township, Sept. 8, 1819, daughter of Collins and Naomi (Ayers) Young; the latter was born in New Jersey Jan. 10, 1778. To them were born a family of four children, who are Flora A., now Mrs. D. B. Allen, of Van Buren Co., Mich.; Milan, and Perlia N., now Mrs. Ira P. Holcomb, both of Colorado Springs, and Mrs. Moody, the wife of the Doctor. They have one child—Archer N. Our subject is a member of the Union Medical Association of Northeastern Ohio, and, though not engrossed in political matters, yet is a strong advocate of the principles of Prohibition, and hopes for the ultimate success of the party. He is a member of the Disciples' Church. Having been raised in the township, his merits as a citizen and a medical man have been fully tested, and his widely extending and lucrative practice, gives ample testimony of his worth and standing in the community.

A. R. McCONNELL, farmer; P. O. Chatham Center; born Sept. 23, 1813, in Colerain Township, Lancaster Co., Penn. He is a son of William and Mary (Russell) McConnell. William was born in Lancaster Co., his wife in Chester

Co. William was a son of Hugh, of Scotch ancestry, and had children born him as follows—Rebecca, Hannah, Jemima, William and Samuel. Of this number, none came West but Samuel and Jemima. She married James Caughey, and settled in Hancock Co., and raised seven children—three sons and four daughters. To William McConnell, ten children were born—Hugh, Alexander R., Francis, Samuel H., William W., Esther R., Robert D., John J., Ann E. and Abram. In 1827, the father of the above emigrated West to Milton Township, Wayne Co., Ohio, where he settled in the woods, and cleared up a farm, and lived on the same until his death, which occurred July 3, 1862. His wife died at the age of 84. William McConnell was in the war of 1812, and was a man of vigorous constitution. Alexander did not leave the home of his father, until he was 28 years of age. Oct. 14, 1841, was married to Harriet M. Conkey, of Scotch descent. She was born Oct. 3, 1823, daughter of John and Chloe (Priory) Conkey. To John and Chloe Conkey were born ten children. They emigrated West to Belmont Co., Ohio, in 1820, where Mrs. McConnell was born. Soon after the marriage of Mr. McConnell, he moved to the farm he now owns, situated on the Smith road. His first purchase was 115 acres, for which he paid \$4 per acre. He has since added to it, until he now has 233 acres. Few men have done more pioneer labor than Mr. McConnell, having cleared up fully 200 acres, and is yet quite vigorous and healthy for one of his years. Mr. McConnell has been a constant resident of this township since his first settlement, and is one of the substantial citizens of the community. He and wife are members of the Congregational Church. Of eight children born him, five are living—Chloe, Mrs. Aaron Stranahan, of Litchfield Center; Orlando, in the township; also Lenora, now the wife of James Sears; Alleta M. and Edith, at home.

JONATHAN PACKARD, retired, East Cleveland; one among the prominent business men in this township is J. Packard, who was born December 9, 1824, in Hampshire Co., Mass., son of Amasa and Abigail (Pettingill) Packard, and came West at the time his parents did, in the year 1832. After attaining the years of responsibility, the first enterprise he embarked in was building a water-mill on the East Branch of Black River, which ran near





the homestead. This mill he run about three years, then sold out and engaged at the carpenter's trade; although never having served a regular apprenticeship, yet his skill in the natural use of tools enabled him to turn his attention to the business, commanding wages from the first; he continued in the trade until Sept. 1, 1854, when he engaged in partnership business with his brother Josiah, at the Center, in the mercantile business, which lasted about fifteen years, during this time did a heavy business—having to pay wholesale dealer's tax, although doing a retail business. About 1869, he purchased his brother's interest, and carried on the business himself, until 1876, when he sold out to C. P. Thatcher and Charles H. Packard, his son. For eighteen consecutive years, Mr. Packard held the office of Postmaster, receiving his first commission during the last days of President Johnson's administration. The Packard family are all stalwart Republicans, and men of upright character. Mr. Packard began his business career without much means, but has been a man of great energy and business enterprise, having had excellent health; he has always taken a part in whatever was calculated to conduce to the general good and prosperity of the town and community at large. Since 1840, he has been a member of the Congregational Church. Nov. 2, 1848, he married Lucinda Bisbee, born Nov. 27, 1824, in Plainfield, Hampshire Co., Mass., daughter of Galen Bisbee, who was a son of Ebenezer, who was born in Bridgewater, Mass., whose descendants were of the Mayflower stock. Galen Bisbee's wife was Penelope Patch, of Warrington; her father was Ephraim Patch, who married Rebecca Andrews. Mrs. Packard's parents started out with the colony of families who came out in 1832, but their trip was interrupted by the death of her father, who died on a canal-boat Oct. 10, 1832, while on his way, and was buried at Buffalo, N. Y.; the family then turned aside to Geauga Co., where they remained about three years before they joined their companions in this township, in 1835, locating one mile and a half south of the Center; her mother died Feb. 20, 1869. But two children are living, Charles Bisbee, now of Washington Co., Neb., and Mrs. J. Packard; both her parents were members of the Congregational Church. For several years past, Mr. and Mrs. Packard have resided in

Cleveland, where he has valuable property which he is improving. They have three children—Lida E., the wife of Charles P. Thatcher; Charles H. and Myra E. at home.

FRANCIS PACKARD, drug store, Chatham Center; born Oct. 7, 1827, in Hampshire Co., Mass., is the youngest of a family of seven children, but five of whom grew to man and womanhood. Their parents were Amasa and Abigail (Pettingill) Packard. Amasa was born Jan. 6, 1788; his wife, Aug. 8, 1781. Both of Hampshire Co., Mass. He was a son of Phillip, who was a native of Bridgewater, near Boston, and, at the age of 14, went into the war of the Revolution, and served five years. His wife was an Edson, prior to her marriage. Amasa, the father of our subject, was twice married. His first wife was Lucinda Ford, who was born July 11, 1787; by her he had three children, but one of whom is now living—William, who resides in Van Buren Co., Mich.; Francis being the issue of the second marriage. The family came out in company with several others from the same locality, locating in this township in the fall of 1832, on the place now owned by D. B. Sanford, where he purchased 110 acres of land, situated south of the Center one mile and a half. Here he lived for thirty-three years, his death occurring Aug. 30, 1865. He was one of the township's best citizens. He was, for many years, a member of the Congregational Church, and officiated as Deacon in that body and, in fact, he and wife were among the first members at the time of its organization. Politically, he was formerly an Old Line Whig, but in after years became affiliated with the Republican party, and, though not a partisan, yet was a man of decided opinions, which he did not fail to express annually at the ballot box. Francis, being the youngest of the family, remained with his parents until he entered the marriage relation, and for some time afterward lived on the homestead farm. His marriage occurred May 28, 1851, thus uniting his interests with Hannah Thayer, who was born in Hampshire Co. Nov. 1, 1827, whose parents were Alvin and Mercy (Marsh) Thayer. Alvin was a son of Asa and Lovisa (Haskins) Thayer. The father of Mercy Marsh was Ephraim Marsh, whose wife's maiden name was Hannah Simon. After the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Packard, they remained on the homestead until 1868. Since that time, he has been engaged in the drug



business at the Center, successor to Dr. Palmer. Since 1874, he has been serving as Justice of the Peace, meting out justice and equity to the people with credit to himself and to the evident satisfaction of his constituents. Like his paternal ancestor, he has been a representative of the Republican party, and has served the people in several township offices, and borne well his part as a citizen and member of the commonwealth. For several years has been a consistent member of the church of his parents' choice, as well as an upright and correct business man. Of three children borne him, but one is living—Vara, now the wife of George Johnson.

EVELETH PACKARD, farmer; P. O. Chatham Center; was born Oct. 7, 1838, in this township; son of George and Jane (Young) Packard. George was a son of Phillip Packard. Collins Young was the father of Jane, the mother of Eveleth; he moved West to this State, locating in Harrisville, he being the fifth family that came in. His worldly possessions upon his arrival consisted of wife, eight children, ax, hoe and gun; buckskin pants were the kind he used, his wife being clad in linsey woolsey; here he remained until his death. George Packard, the father of Eveleth, came out to this county at the time the colony came, and made his settlement on the farm now owned by H. Homan, here he settled and cleared up that farm. But two children were born him—Harrison G., now in Ionia Co., Mich., and Eveleth. Mr. Packard died in November, 1872; his wife still survives him. March 17, 1858, Eveleth was married to Harriet A. Sandall, born in Lincolnshire, England, April 30, 1843, daughter of William and Martha (Roberts) Sandall; he was born in same shire in 1805; she three years later. She emigrated to America with her parents in 1845, locating first in Cuyahoga Falls, where they resided until their location in this township. Her father resides in the southwest part of the township; her mother died in 1863. To them were born a family of four children—Joseph, Catharine, Henry and Mrs. Packard. After Mr. Packard married, he moved to the southwest part of the township, where he lived four years. Then moved west of the Center, and lived on the farm adjoining him, where he remained until 1874, when he located where he now resides. Has 193 acres. Of the children born him are

George, Milo and Warren. Mr. Packard and wife are both members of the Congregational Church.

MRS. ERASMUS D. PARSONS, farming; P. O. Chatham Center; was born Nov. 23, 1808, in Otsego Co., N. Y.; eldest daughter of Peter and Celinda (Ross) Crush. Her maiden name was Hope Crush, and came West with her parents in 1822. Dec. 25, 1831, she was married to Erasmus D. Parsons, who was born Aug. 2, 1813, in Ontario Co., N. Y. His parents were Moses and Elizabeth (Crafts) Parsons. He was born in Parma, N. Y., in 1769; she in Wooster, Mass., in 1776. Elizabeth Crafts was a near relative of Maj. Benjamin Crafts, who was a Mason of high rank, and was a man of scholarly attainments as well as an efficient executive officer. To him is ascribed the honor of reading the Declaration of Independence in Fancuil Hall, for the first time it was read before an audience. The Parsons are the real pioneers of Chatham Township, arriving in this township in 1818, May 10, Moses Parsons locating on the farm where Mr. R. Shaw now lives. To him were born three children, but one of them now living—Elizabeth C., who was born March 26, 1834. Mr. Parsons died in 1876. He had been a Democrat, and, though not a member of any church, yet was an ardent and enthusiastic admirer of the principles taught in ancient Freemasonry, and endeavored to conform his life to its teaching. Elizabeth was married, March 30, 1854, to William Packard, who was born Sept 18, 1826. He was a son of Caleb and Sallie (Stowell) Packard. She was a daughter of David Stowell. Mr. Packard came West in 1852, and for several years has been residing on the Parsons farm. Has one child. Mr. Packard is a member of the Masonic Fraternity. They have 125 acres of land. Mrs. Parsons is residing with them.

CHARLES ROSS, farmer; P. O. Chatham Center; is one of the men in this county whose success in life has been the result of hard labor and the exercise of the most rigid economy. He was born May 22, 1823, in the town of Rochester, Windham Co., State of Vermont. His parents were Daniel and Susan (Whitcomb) Ross, to whom were born a family of eleven children. The family came West in 1834, locating in La Fayette Township. Our subject was raised to farming. At the age of 14, he left home and secured a place to live, where he





worked for his board and clothes, and got some schooling in the meantime. At the age of 16, he bargained with his father to buy his time in consideration of \$56, which he paid him in work; afterward he engaged in running a thrashing machine, and, by the time he was of age, he had saved about \$400, when he sold out his interest and engaged at work at \$10 per month, investing his means in some wild land in Wisconsin, 94 acres. Nov. 8, 1846, he married Nancy Eldred, born in Truxton, N. Y., Feb. 26, 1828; daughter of Daniel S. and Rachel (Soule) Eldred, who came West about the year 1833, locating in York Township. To them were born six children, two sons and four daughters. Soon after the marriage of Mr. Ross, he rented a saw-mill in La Fayette Township, and, after running it for some time, he traded it for 50 acres of land, which he now owns. His Wisconsin land he traded and invested in land in this township, and has since operated in land considerably, having at times over 500 acres. In 1873, he moved to the farm he now owns, having, in all, land to the amount of 348 acres. He has two children—Daniel S., born Jan. 27, 1864; Seth P., born Dec. 16, 1867. He is a man of strong will-power, and has, from ill health and bodily infirmities, been using stimulants since 1848; used a gallon of whisky per month constantly since, yet he has never been intoxicated in that time. Mr. Ross is one of the wealthiest farmers in the township, and has always lived an honest and sober life, and has accomplished more than the mass of successful business men.

ORRIN ROGERS, farmer; P. O. Chatham Center; born Dec. 20, 1815, in Chenango Co., N. Y., son of Bela and Mina (Hale) Rogers. Bela was born near Cape Cod, and was a son of Solomon, to whom were born Thomas, Solomon, Bela, James, Sarah, Sevira and Hannah. Bela and wife were united in marriage, April 4, 1808; he was born June 25, 1787, she July 23, 1788; nine children were born to them, viz.: Lucinda, Orrin, Silas, Isaac, Sophia, Hannah, James, Mary, Sanford, all living but Sophia, all in Ottawa Co., Mich., except Orrin, Silas and Sanford; the two former are in this township, and Sanford is in Indiana. Bela Rogers came to this county in 1834, stopping first year in Harrisville Township, the year following located in the northwest part of this township, where Silas now lives, and cleared up the farm

with the assistance of his boys; he died May 15, 1857, his wife, April 6, 1854; both were members of the Baptist Church. Orrin left home at 21, and began his career by working out by the month. Feb. 19, 1838, he was married to Sarah Grant, who was born in Chenango Co., N. Y., Feb. 15, 1819, daughter of Elisha and Amy (Marsh) Grant. The Grant family came West about the year 1830. Soon after Mr. Rogers was married, he moved to Harrisville, where he rented a farm for two years, then came to this township and purchased 52 acres, a part of his father's farm, for which he paid \$6 per acre; settling upon this, he cleared it up; eight years after, he sold the same and purchased land in Indiana, but never moved on it; moving then to the south part of this township, he rented land two years; then purchased 65 acres in Harrisville Township, where he lived until 1860, when he sold out and bought 126 acres, where he has since lived. His wife died July 8, 1863, leaving one son, Orange H., born Oct. 5, 1839, who married Corinthia C. Barnes, and by her had three children—Oliver, Wilson and Eudora, but one now living, Wilson, born in 1871. His wife died Aug. 28, 1876. Orange lives with his father on the home farm, which they carry on in partnership. In October, 1865, Mr. Rogers was married to Mrs. Emily Crush, whose maiden name was Gridley, daughter of Shubael, and sister of Orrin Gridley, of this township. Mr. Rogers has, by his own exertions, secured himself a competence.

C. R. REYNOLDS, farmer; P. O. Chatham Center; was born Sept. 1, 1842, in Montville, this county, son of James and Lavina (Welton) Reynolds, to whom were born a family of seven children, who lived to maturity. Clark was but 11 years of age when his father died, but he remained on the homestead until his enlistment in the army, which was Aug. 16, 1864, and served until the close of the war, the greater portion of his time he spent at Nashville doing post and provost duty; was there the time Gen. Hood made his advance on the place, and helped entertain him during his short stay. Upon his return home, he resumed farming; in August, the following year, he married Carrie Collins, born Sept. 9, 1843, in Ashtabula Co., Ohio, daughter of Charles and Dorcas (Abbott) Collins. He was a native of England, she of Canada, and was a daughter of Benja-



min. Mr. Collins came West to Ashtabula County in 1830, and was married in 1837, and, finally, located in this township on the farm Ed Miller now owns. But two children were born them—Ann, now the wife of John Wilbur in Wellington, and Carrie, the wife of our subject. Mr. Collins and wife were born in 1811; he, for several years, was head collier in a mine in Connecticut, and had charge of a large force of men. Mr. Collins and wife now reside in Wellington. Mr. Reynolds' uncle, Uri Welton, was a soldier in the war of 1812, was taken prisoner and conveyed to Halifax, and was never heard of afterward. Mr. Reynolds moved to the farm he now owns, in 1876, has 86 acres of land; is a man of a jovial disposition. Mrs. Reynolds, prior to her marriage, was, for several years, engaged as teacher. Of four children born them, three are living—Charles, Frank W. and Anna D. Edith died when 2½ years old.

RALPH RICKARD, farmer; P. O. Chatham Center; born Aug. 17, 1814, in Manlius Township, Onondaga Co., N. Y.; son of John and Catharine (Ehle) Rickard, both families being of German extraction. Catharine's father was Peter Ehle, who married Catharine Nelas, he being one of the Revolutionary soldiers. Ralph's father (John) was a teamster in the war of 1812, and drove an ammunition wagon. Ralph was of a family of nine children, eight of whom came to maturity. Some of the number cast their fortunes in the West, others remained in their native county, viz., Archibald, Mary and Roena. Peter, George, Ralph, Betsey and Harvey, came West. Peter (now deceased) settled in Guilford, and raised a family—Betsey in Missouri; George and Harvey in Michigan. His father generously gave him his time at the age of 19. He hired out on a farm, receiving the prevailing low wages of that time. December, 1838, he married Elizabeth Talbot, born Feb. 29, 1820, in Madison Co., N. Y.; daughter of Samuel and Betsey Talbot. Mrs. Rickard died June, 1852, leaving one child—Cyrus, now of Litchfield Township. His second marriage occurred April 28, 1853, with Phoebe Reynolds, born in Cazenovia, Madison Co., N. Y., Jan. 15, 1831, whose parents were Colonel and Phoebe (Avery) Reynolds. He was born at Warwick, on Narragansett Bay, R. I.; she in Herkimer Co., N. Y. He was a son of Francis Reynolds; she a daughter of Punderson Avery, of Irish stock.

Mrs. Rickard came West with her sister in 1850, and Mr. Rickard came West in 1845, first to Canaan Township, in Wayne Co. The following year, he located in this township, he and brother George purchasing 194 acres, for which they paid \$8.50 per acre, which they carried on in partnership for several years. Has now 97 acres situated in the north part of the township, which has been the result of his own labor and patient industry. His last matrimonial union has been crowned with five children, three living—Frank, Harriet (Mrs. Ruthman Kent) and Jennie. Both Mr. and Mrs. Rickard are members of the M. E. Church. Mr. Rickard has been a man of good constitution, and a very hard-working man, but is now enjoying the comforts of his home in comparative retirement.

O. J. ROGERS, hardware and tin-shop, Chatham Center; born in this township April 21, 1851. Is the youngest of a family of three children born to Orrin and Rosina (Packard) Rogers. He was born in New York in October, 1815; she was born in 1818; daughter of Phillip Packard, a native of Penfield, Mass. Orrin J. was raised at home to farming. March 26, 1878, he was married to Fannie N. Poreh, born in Chicago in June, 1858, daughter of Edward N. Poreh, who was one of the early settlers and business men in Chicago; was a man of excellent business qualifications. He was a lake Captain, and owned several vessels, and did quite an extensive marine business. The great fire of 1871, destroyed his residence and some of his vessels which were in port at that time. He afterward purchased a farm near Chicago, and engaged in farming. His loss by the fire, and excessive labor on the farm, hastened his death, which occurred in June, 1879. He was a native of England, and was the father of eight children, who are Giles, Daniel, Fannie (Mrs. R.), Anna, Edwin, Howard, Winifred and Willie. Since the death of their father, the family returned to Chicago. Giles is now a foreman in a telegraph office. Our subject, Orrin J., first set up in business at Greenwich, in Huron Co., in 1877, in the stove, tin and hardware business with Mr. Lee, under the firm name of Lee & Rogers, which association lasted nearly two years. In October, 1879, he bought out the interest of J. W. Bernard, of this place, and has since been conducting it in a successful manner. The business being considerably in the decline when he came here, yet,





under his management, it is assuming encouraging proportions. He keeps a good assortment of goods in his line, consisting of hardware, tinware, stoves, pumps, etc., etc. Mr. Rogers and wife are members of the Baptist Church. Mr. Rogers' father has been a member since 15 years of age.

**JOHN RICE**, milling and farming; P.O. Chatham Center; born in Wooster Township, Wayne Co., Ohio, Aug. 4, 1833; eldest son of Philip and Sarah Rice. John was but a lad of 3 years of age when his parents came to this township. His early boyhood was spent in school, and in assisting his father in the duties of the farm. At the age of 16, he took charge of the saw-mill of his father, and ran the same until he purchased the entire interest of the same. Oct. 30, 1856, he married Hannah Stien, born Oct. 14, 1830, in Berks Co., Penn. Her parents were Joseph and Typhenia (Bear) Stien. Joseph was a son of John, who was drafted in the war of the Revolution. The parents of Mrs. Rice emigrated from Pennsylvania to Mahoning Co., then to Ashland Co. In 1854, they settled in Homer Township, where he lived until his death, which occurred Dec. 20, 1880, in his 75th year. Of his children living are Solomon, who resides on the homestead; Catharine, in Ottawa, the wife of Fred Dupler; Elizabeth, Mrs. W. Andrews, of Homer; Caroline, Mrs. Wilson Hawk, of Homer, and Mrs. Rice. Since Mr. Rice has been married, he has been a resident of the farm he now owns. He has six children—Joseph P., Sarah T., Irena E., Mary C., Clement S. and John W. Mr. Rice is proprietor of the Rice Mills. In 1877, he built the mill which he now owns, which is 34x40, and 34 feet high, all resting on a solid wall of rock. The building is three stories high, has the best of machinery, and was built on the "New Process" plan, middlings purifier, and the latest improved cleaning machinery, and is doing a thriving business.

**JOHN RICHARDS**, wagon-maker, Chatham Center; born in Moreland Township, Wayne Co., Ohio, Sept. 13, 1841, the third of a family of twelve children, born to Wesley and Mary J. (Ogden) Richards. The former is a native of the Buckeye State, while his wife was born in Pennsylvania. They were the parents of the following children: Bezal E., Elizabeth, John, Sarah, Leonard, James A., Wesley, Samuel, Martha J., Charles, Margaret E. and

George W. Bezal E. was a soldier in the late war, and is now a resident of Michigan. John Ogden, Mr. Richards' uncle, served three years in the war of the rebellion, and was taken prisoner and confined in Andersonville Prison, and, upon his release, was discharged from service, and, upon his return home, was among the number who lost their lives on the ill-fated Sultana. At the age of 19, our subject left home, to learn the wagon-maker's trade. After serving one year at the same, he enlisted in the 16th O. V. I., Co. B, in the first call. His enlistment was April 21, 1861. After serving his time, he afterward re-enlisted in a new company, which disbanded ere they were organized or mustered in. He then completed his trade, and set up in Chatham Center, and has since been the resident mechanic in his line, of the township. Dec. 1, 1863, he was married to Celestia A. Rice, born Dec. 31, 1846, in this township, daughter of Stahlman and Ann (Taylor) Rice, who were among the early arrivals to the county, and came into the township about forty years ago. Mr. Rice had eight children born to him. Mr. Richards' father died in 1875; his mother is yet living. Mr. Richards, Sr., and wife, were members of the M. E. Church. Mrs. Richards, the wife of our subject, is a member of the M. E. Church also. They have five children—Bertha M., Ethel, Charles H., Hattie A. and Grace E. The Richards are true Republicans.

**PHILIP RICE**, farmer; Chatham Center. Mr. Rice has been identified with the interests of the township since 1836. He was born May 18, 1810, in Westmoreland Co., Penn.; son of Barnhart, who was a son of Frederick, who served all through the war of the Revolution; his father was Barnhart Rice, of German ancestry. To Frederick Rice were born Barnhart, Frederick (who died in the war of 1812), John, Christopher, Simeon, Henry, Catharine and Susan. Frederick Rice, the grandfather of Philip, emigrated West to this State, locating in Wayne Co., Wooster Township, in the spring of 1816, where he purchased 124 acres, at \$10 per acre. Barnhart and Christopher came the year following, Philip being a lad of seven years when his father emigrated to the State. At the age of 19, his father gave him his time; he turned his attention to farming; Oct. 9, 1834, married Sarah Herman, born in 1812, in Baughman Township, Wayne Co., daughter of



George and Elizabeth Keester. To Barnhart Rice, the father of Philip, were born ten children; of those living are Philip, John, Catharine, Elizabeth, Sarah, Susan, Anna and Mary, all living in this county except Mary. After Philip was married, he rented a farm south of Wooster, until his location in this township. He purchased 146 acres of John S. Strong for \$2.50 per acre, having saved enough money, while renting in Wayne Co., to make his first payment. The first year he cut off one acre and a half, which he put in corn and potatoes. The next year he built a saw-mill, which was probably the first one built in the township, which he run for many years; his son John is now running his mill upon the same site. Mr. Rice has now 170 acres, which is adorned with the best of farm buildings. Mr. Rice, having been one of the best farmers in the township, being now somewhat in decline, has given up the management of his farm mostly to his sons, George and Daniel. Mr. Rice is a Lutheran, and one of the solid farmers and honored members of the community; has three children—John, George and Daniel.

H. D. ROBERTS, farmer; P. O. Chatham Center; was born Jan. 25, 1826, in Hinckley Township, Medina Co.; son of Robert and Betsey (West) Roberts. The father of our subject was born in Connecticut; he and his wife were married in New York and came West about the year 1824; soon after his arrival to the State, he shipped on the Lake and was never heard from afterward, supposed to have been wrecked and drowned. Betsey, his wife, was born in Berkshire Co., Mass., July 22, 1807, daughter of Ephraim West. Mrs. Roberts had two children by her union with Mr. Roberts, H. D. and Lyman C. Mrs. Roberts was subsequently married to Apollos King, with whom our subject lived until the death of his step-father; he then carried on the farm for his mother three years. Sept. 12, 1848, he was married to Betsey A. Lane, who was born in Madison Co., N. Y., Jan. 27, 1828, daughter of Chauncey and Sallie Lane; both were natives of Madison Co. Their family consisted of five children, all of whom came to maturity—Samantha, who married Alex. Cassell, in Brunswick; Anna M., Mrs. R. Hiers, of Michigan. She died suddenly while walking in the road to a neighbor's house; Chauncey and Edwin in Wauseon, Fulton Co., Ohio. Chauncey Lane,

the father of Mrs. R., was a molder by trade and one of the most skillful of his kind; he moved West to Summit Co. in 1834, and died very soon after; his widow married Isaac Hulett, of Brunswick Township. The father of Chauncey Lane was named John; he was a soldier in the war of 1812. Chauncey, the brother of Mrs. R., was a soldier in the late rebellion, and "fought mit Sigel." In May, 1850, Mr. Roberts (our subject) made a purchase of 60 acres where he now lives, bought of Mr. Thayer, for which he paid \$15.50 per acre; but little improvements were made upon it; it was almost a swamp or frog-pond, but Mr. Roberts having had considerable experience in pioneer life, in Hinckley, he soon cleared it up and afterward added 55 acres more, for which he paid \$25 per acre, and has now a good farm with excellent buildings. He has no children, yet he has made a home for others under his own roof. Mr. Roberts has a pleasant home and the best assortment or cabinet of Indian relics in the county.

S. C. RIPLEY, farmer and carpenter; P. O. Chatham Center; was born April 22, 1813, in Bennington Co., Vt., and, when a babe, removed with his parents to Sparta, N. Y., on the east bank of Skaneateles Lake, in Onondaga Co. His parents were Jonathan and Ruth (Corey) Ripley; Jonathan was born in Rhode Island, and was a son of David Ripley, who was a Revolutionary soldier; he was a brother of Gen. Ripley, whose name is recorded in the annals of American history, as one of the officers of the Revolution. Ruth Corey was a daughter of Silas, to whom were born sons, as follows: James, Reynolds, John and Joseph. The children born to Jonathan were Joshua, Rebecca, James, John, Whiteman, Menily, Elsie, David, Maria and Silas C. Our subject was raised to farm labor, but, as soon as he attained his manhood's years, he then turned his attention to the business his inclination and ability had in store. At the age of 20, he left home and went to learn the carpenter's trade, which he followed for some time; afterward, he went to Auburn, and there engaged in a machine-shop, and afterward became the proprietor of the same. In June, 1836, he was married to Rosina Burgess, born in Springfield, Mass., in 1809, daughter of Benjamin S. and Rebecca (Chapin) Burgess. In 1842, Mr. Ripley joined the tide that was emigrating west-





ward, and, in December of the same year, he landed in Guilford Township, and here carried on his trade, and, in 1847, he removed to Montville, where he lived until January, 1853, when he located in this township, and has since remained. He has made several minor moves and changes, but, since his advent to this township, has been a constant resident, and is still carrying on his trade as contractor and builder. In 1870, he located on the farm he now owns, consisting of 86 acres, which was formerly owned by Lemuel Allis, situated immediately south of the Center. Mrs. Ripley died in May, 1875. Five children were born, but two only are living—William and Amelia. Theodore F. was a soldier in the late war—was a member of Co. K, 42d O. V. I.; he enlisted Aug. 20, 1862, and died of disease, just one year, to a day, from the date of his enlistment. Mr. Ripley's school advantages were very limited indeed; what education he has was obtained in the practice of his business and self-teaching. Mr. Ripley is a strong temperance man, and not only lives in accordance thereto, but votes that way whenever the opportunity is presented.

HOMER SHANK, farmer and stock-raiser; P. O. Chatham Center; was born Feb. 19, 1829, in Chippewa Township, Wayne Co., Ohio, the eldest of a family of thirteen children born to his parents. His father is Rev. Michael Shank, whose wife was Betsey Hyde. He was born June 4, 1805, in Lancaster Co., Penn. She was a daughter of Henry Hyde, whose wife's maiden name was Mary Ashbaugh—all of whom are of German ancestry. Of Homer's grandfather's family, they were six in number, four living—Michael; Barbara, now Mrs. Hyde, of Montville Township; Nancy, now Mrs. Gish, of Lancaster, Penn.; and Fannie, now Mrs. Gish, of Wayne Co., Ohio. Of Michael's family, Homer, of this township; Valentine, Peter and Vincent, in Litchfield; Mary E., now Mrs. Witter, in Des Moines Co., Iowa; Mrs. Morgan Franks, of this township; Narcissa, now Mrs. Wilson, of Wayne Co., Ohio; and Hampton, at St. Louis, Mich. Michael, the father of Homer, emigrated West when a young man, locating in Wayne Co., in 1827, where he married and cleared up a farm; he remained here until 1854, when he moved to Medina; remained four years, then returned to Wayne Co., where he lived until about the

year 1875. His wife died in 1872; he has since married Meroy Carter. For forty years, Mr. Shank has been one of the leading Ministers of the Regular Baptist Church, and has now a church in charge at Penfield, where he now resides. Homer remained at home until 25 years of age. He was first married, April 6, 1854, to Mary Otis, born in Sugar Grove Township, Wayne Co., in 1836, daughter of Jesse and Charlotte Davy, he being a native of Vermont, and she of New Jersey; they were among the early settlers in Wayne Co. Mrs. Shank died Nov. 7, 1864, leaving one child—Bert—who was but six days old at his mother's death. His second wife was Hannah Panny, daughter of Mrs. Merena Damon; she died, leaving one child—Ray—born of this marriage. In June, 1873, he was married to Mrs. Jennie Ware, who was born in Harrisville Township, April 22, 1846, daughter of Darius and Nancy (Rosa) Sanford, who were natives of New York. By this marriage, two children have been born to Mr. Shank—Tressie and Edith. Mr. Shank has 145 acres of land; his wife 46. As a breeder and handler of thoroughbred horses, Mr. Shank takes the lead in Chatham Township. He is a breeder and trainer, his horses always commanding the highest market price. He recently sold General Hayes (of Hiatoga stock) for \$3,000. Being an excellent judge, and understanding thoroughly his business, he is acknowledged as the leading dealer in this part of the county.

JOSHUA SHAW, retired, Chatham Center; is a native of Plainfield, Hampshire Co., Mass.; his birth occurred Jan. 30, 1818; parents were Thomas and Rebecca (Hersey) Shaw. He was born in Abington, Mass., about the year 1765. He was a son of Joshua. To Thomas were born five children, one daughter and four sons, viz., Thomas, Jerome H., James, Joshua and Deborah, now Mrs. Abram Falconer, in Fulton Co. Thomas, an artist, now a resident of Cuyahoga Co., Ohio, and Joshua, are the only ones living (Deborah, Thomas and Joshua). Joshua was but a lad when his father died, and he came West in company with his mother in 1834, locating one and three-fourths miles south of the Center. Jerome, his brother, purchased land at \$3 per acre. Joshua worked with his brother, and made his home with his mother, until his marriage, which event took place in accordance with the laws of the commonwealth,



being celebrated March 24, 1842; his spouse was Lucinda E. Packard, sister of Jonathan and Francis P. She died in 1864. Two children were born—Sarah and Francis R. Sarah died at the age of 15. His second wife was Emily Warner, who died in the spring of 1869, leaving no issue. Nov. 24, 1870, he married Mary P. Packard, who was born Aug. 18, 1836, in this township, daughter of William Packard, born in Plainfield, Mass., July 23, 1808, whose wife was Mary Smith; her mother's maiden name was Mary F. Rude, born in Ashfield, March 19, 1804, all of Massachusetts. Mrs. Shaw's father resides in Covert, Van Buren Co., Mich. She has but two brothers living—William O. and Alfred S., now of the same county as above. During the early part of Mr. Shaw's life, he taught school several terms, and employed his time at home on the farm, having bought of his brother a portion of the land he first settled upon, and remained upon this tract until his removal to the Center in 1873, and, with the exception of two years spent in Michigan, after leaving the farm in 1870, has resided in the township forty-six years. His farm, consisting of 100 acres, is now being carried on by Francis R., who was one of the principals in the invention of the telephone, now in operation all through the country. He has been twice married; first to Eliza A. Parson; she died, leaving no issue. His present wife was Sarah Garver; by her he has three children—Eva M., William F. and Mary J. Since 1836, Mr. Joshua Shaw has been a consistent member of the Congregational Church. He is a self-made man, and came here without means.

ALFRED W. SHAW, farmer and mechanic; P. O. Chatham Center; born in Plainfield Township, Berkshire Co., Mass., May 3, 1827, the third child born to Orrin Shaw, who came West in 1833, locating in this township. Alfred learned the carpenter's trade of his father, and, at the age of 21, started out on his own "hook." Oct. 1, 1848, he married Mary Packard, who was born in Plainfield, Mass., Dec. 14, 1824, daughter of Phillip and Hannah Packard. The family came West in 1833, and located near the farm Orrin Shaw settled. To Phillip Packard were born nine children, seven of whom lived to be grown. Phillip Packard was born May 6, 1790; his wife Sept. 17, 1792. They were married in 1812. Of the number who grew up, were Jacob, Sallie, Rosina, Austin M., Hannah L.,

Mary and Aurelia. Jacob now resides in Cameron, Mo.; Phillip died Feb. 25, 1872; his wife Feb. 20, 1833. Phillip Packard was one of the original members at the organization of the Congregational Church at the Center. Since the marriage of our subject, he has been a constant resident of the farm he now owns. He purchased 51 acres at \$8 per acre, on what was known as the "Porter" tract. This land, at the time of his purchase, was unimproved; afterward added 25 acres, which cost him \$25 per acre. Since his occupancy, has been engaged in farming and carrying on his trade. He has a mill on his premises, constructed to do grinding and planing, by steam power. Has but one child, William A., born Jan. 7, 1854, who resides with him, who, in Jan. 5, 1881, was married to Mary E. Hyde. Mr. Shaw has been a member of his father's church for about forty years, his wife nearly same time. Mr. Shaw is a Republican.

E. P. SHAW, farmer; P. O. Chatham Center; was born on the same farm he now owns, Nov. 8, 1836; son of Orrin and Sarah (Poole) Shaw. He was born in Plainfield, Mass., Dec. 16, 1796, son of Thomas, whose birth occurred Dec. 16, 1765; his decease occurred in 1827. His wife was Deborah White, born Sept. 11, 1774; she died Sept. 8, 1806. She was a descendant of Peregrine White, who was born on the Mayflower. Thomas was the father of three children—Cynthia, Chloe and Orrin. Cynthia married Iram Packard, who settled the farm now owned by George Holbern, of this township; Chloe married a Catlin. To Orrin were born four children—Mary, now of Missouri, who married Marshall Shaw; Orrin S., of Van Buren Co., Mich.; Alfred W. and E. P. in this township. Orrin Shaw was a carpenter by trade, and came West in 1833 to secure a home. Iram Packard had preceded him, and purchased a tract of land running from the Center road to the river. On the west of him, he purchased a small tract at \$3 per acre, adding to this at times until he had 100 acres; worked at his trade, and earned enough to pay for it. Here he remained until his death, July 7, 1877; that of his wife, Aug. 26, 1873. He was one of the first members of the Congregational Church at its organization, and its first Deacon, which office he held up to the time of his death. He was a conscientious and upright man. Edgar P., being the youngest, remained at home, and





co-operated with his father in the management of the farm. He taught school several terms, and, having a love for music, his services were brought into requisition as a teacher of vocal music. April 4, 1861, he married Barbara Hyde, born in this county, daughter of Henry and Sarah (Johnson) Hyde. He was born in Cumberland Co., Penn., Feb. 10, 1815; she in Trumbull Co., in August, 1816, a daughter of Austin and Maria (Oviatt) Johnson. The father of Henry Hyde was Henry, who married Mary Ashbaugh, to whom were born a family of fifteen children, all of whom lived to maturity. To Henry Hyde and wife were born eight children, seven living, who are Maria, Barbara, Nancy, Melissa, Henry, Anson and Mary. Henry Hyde, the grandfather of Mrs. Shaw, came West to this county and settled in Montville in 1815, they having to pack their effects on horseback to their cabin, as there were no roads cut. After residing here many years, he finally located in Litchfield, where he died July 21, 1877. His wife is now living in Sullivan, Ashland Co., Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Shaw have six children—Edgar B., Clara E., Allison P., Mary B., Howard A. and Emily B. For twenty-eight years, Mr. Shaw has been a member of the Congregational Church, and had charge of the choir, being an able and efficient leader. His farm, consisting of 160 acres, was formerly owned by his father.

D. B. SANFORD, farmer; P. O. Chatham Center; was born June 20, 1813, in Green Township, Chenango Co., N. Y., the third of a family of nine children, whose parents were Beers and Rachel (Akerly) Sanford. Beers was a son of Lemuel Sanford, whose children were Beers, Jackson, Daniel, Darius, Hannah and Apha. Rachel was a daughter of Samuel, whose offspring were Rachel, Vina, Polly, Rhoda, Betsey, Conrad and Miller. The Akerlys were originally from Holland, while the Sanfords, so far as known, are descendants of the Puritans. The Sanford family came West in 1832, and located in the northeastern part of Harrisville Township, where Albert Sanford now resides. Here Beers Sanford purchased 60 acres, which cost \$3.50 per acre. Here he settled, in the woods, and remained on this tract until his decease, which occurred Dec. 7, 1877, in his 84th year. His wife lived until she turned her fourscore and four years; she died Dec. 23, 1880. This venerable couple had

been members of the M. E. Church for many years. Both died in the triumph of a living faith. The last words he uttered were, "I know that my Redeemer liveth," and soon passed to his rest. Darius B. assisted his father in clearing up his farm. At the age of 21, he began working out by the month, receiving \$9 per month. He continued in this way until his union with Nancy Rosa, Feb. 28, 1843, who was born Aug. 12, 1825, in Steuben Co., N. Y., daughter of William and Elizabeth (Davis) Rosa, the latter of whom was a daughter of Benjamin and Nancy Davis. William Rosa was a soldier in the war of 1812. To Benjamin Davis were born two sons and six daughters, whose names are Henry, Abram, Elizabeth, Margery, Phoebe, Julia, Nancy and Sarah. To William Rosa were born eleven children, all of whom grew to maturity. Mrs. Sanford had three brothers who took their places in the rank and file of the "boys in blue." William died of disease at Pittsburg Landing. Isaac was taken prisoner, and served many weary and hungry days within the confines of Libby Prison; he had served all through the war, and was in the prison at the time Richmond was captured. Reuben after serving his time in the 10th Kan. V. I., and escaping the perils of war, was murdered, after the war, at Baxter Springs, being shot by some unknown party, and his body afterward found in the river. He was last seen driving his team, which was never seen afterward. Soon after Mr. Sanford was married, he set up housekeeping on his father's place. All the household effects he had to begin with, he could have wheeled upon a barrow. He lived there about eight years, and, during this time, worked out as he could, and managed to save enough, in this time, to make a payment upon a place of his own. His father was unable to assist him, but our worthy subject was energetic, and, having a good wife to assist him, "gained ground" every year. His first purchase was in the east part of the township, where he purchased the place which W. Wideman now owns, which was unimproved; he soon cleared this, and made another purchase near by, which he also cleared up. Since 1872, he has been a resident of the farm he now owns, which was settled by Amasa Packard. Mr. Sanford has done an immense amount of hard labor, and has made all he has by the hardest of work. He has four children—Delia, Sarah, Jane and Hi-



ram. Mr. Sanford's wife and the daughters are all members of the M. E. Church.

**JACKSON STROUP**, farmer and blacksmith; P. O. Chatham Center; born March 9, 1822, in Rich Hill Township, Greene Co., Penn., son of Samuel and Rachel (Rush) Stroup. Samuel was a son of Thomas, of German descent, to whom were born John, George, Millie and Lavina. The father of Rachel was Peter Rush, a native of Pennsylvania. Jackson was a lad of 13 when his parents came West. His father located first in Spencer, purchasing land, for which he paid \$5 per acre. He did not remain long on this place, but moved about considerably before he died, renting land in different localities. His death occurred in the year 1840. His family consisted of nine children, all of whom lived to maturity. They were Lucinda, Eliza, Jackson, Silas, George, Parker, Oliver, Martin and Phillip. After the death of his father, Jackson took charge of the family, and kept them together, and maintained them until they were enabled to care for themselves. At the age of 25, he was married to Delilah Haines, who was born in Wooster, Ohio, Oct. 28, 1827, daughter of Jacob and Maria (Space) Haines. Jacob was born in New York, and was a son of Christopher, a native of Germany, whose family consisted of nine children. After the marriage of Mr. Stroup, he located in Spencer Township and worked at his trade. In 1859, he moved to this township and purchased of Mr. Charles Collins 40 acres, and has since added to the same until he now has 90 acres. Six children have been born to him, who are George A., Garner, Chester, Martha (now Mrs. William Maxon), Edman and Harvey. Mrs. Stroup's father came West to Wayne Co. when young, his father being one of the first settlers in the county. Mr. Stroup and wife are members of the M. E. Church.

**WILLIAM SHOEMAKER**, farmer; P. O. Chatham Center; was born July 22, 1832, in Wayne Co., Ohio, the ninth child of a family of fourteen children born to Rev. John and Catharine (Ringer) Shoemaker. This gentleman was born April 3, about the year 1788, in Armstrong Co., Penn., son of Joseph Shoemaker, of German ancestry. To him were born seven children. Catharine Ringer was a daughter of Michael, to whom were born five sons and five daughters, who were John, George, Michael, William and Henry; the daughters

were Catharine, Mary, Betsey and Catharine. John Shoemaker, the father of William, emigrated West about the year 1826, locating in what was then Perry Township, Wayne Co., where he purchased 160 acres of land. John Shoemaker, after thirty years' ministerial labor in the German Baptist Church, departed this life June 10, 1855. He was a just and upright man, a kind father and a consistent Christian. William left home at 22 years of age. Nov. 22, 1854, was married to Leah Berkey, who was born in Northampton Co., Penn., Sept. 4, 1831, daughter of Christian and Barbara (Shaum) Berkey. Christian was born and raised in Northampton Co., his wife in Plainfield Township. The mother of Barbara Shaum was a Miller prior to her marriage. Mrs. Shoemaker's parents came West about the year 1842. Christian Berkey, the father of Mrs. Shoemaker, died in 1873, his wife, 1856. They were members of the Mennonite Church. After Mr. Shoemaker was married, he lived one year and a half on his father's farm, then removed to Ashland Co., where he lived eight years. In 1863, located where he now resides. First purchased 85 acres of Robinson, for which he paid \$34; has since added to it until he has 172 acres. Has three children—Melinda, now Mrs. McVicker, on farm adjoining; Eliza and Lorin, at home. Mr. Shoemaker has a fine location, and his new residence, built the past year, is one of the finest. He and wife are members of the German Baptist Church; also, his eldest daughter. In connection with his farming, he runs a dairy of twenty cows, and is a successful farmer.

**EDWARD TALBOTT**, retired farmer; P. O. Chatham Center; was born March 4, 1809, in Cazenovia Township, Madison Co., N. Y., son of Samuel and Betsey (Arnold) Talbott. Betsey was a daughter of Peleg, who was born in Providence, R. I., and of Scotch ancestry. Edward Talbott, grandfather of our subject, was a native of England, and emigrated to America during the latter part of the eighteenth century. He was a man of superior education and mental endowments, and was for many years in His Majesty's service as a Recording Officer and Surveyor. He was related to some of the noble families of England. His mother was a Countess, and resided in a fine mansion a short distance from London. Samuel Talbott, the father of our subject, was a farmer. To





him were born nine children—Hiram, Lorenzo, Edward, Alphens, George, Maria, Caroline, Eliza and Sarah. Edward was 22 when he began for himself. His first purchase of land was in Murray Township, Orleans Co., N. Y. Jan. 22, 1839, he was married to Cynthia Reynolds, born in Madison Co., N. Y., in 1816, daughter of Col. and Phebe (Avery) Reynolds. After his marriage, he purchased a small farm near his father's, where he resided until 1846, when he sold out and came West, locating in this township, purchasing 121 acres where Mr. Frost now resides. In 1855, he bought out Marcus Lyon, south of the Center, purchasing 146 $\frac{3}{4}$  acres at \$30 per acre, and kept the same until 1870, when he sold out to A. C. Packard at \$70 per acre, and has since resided at the Center. Five daughters have been born him, who have since married, and are residents of the township. Euphemia married Amasa Clapp; Lucy A., P. D. Stowell; Henrietta, W. H. Shane; Mattie, A. R. Clapp; Ida, B. O. McConnell. Mr. Talbott began life poor, but by good management has accumulated a comfortable fortune. He is not a church member, nor has he ever taken an active part in the politics of his township, further than to vote intelligently.

O. E. TOWN, farmer; P. O. Chatham Center; is a native of the Buckeye State, and was born May 11, 1847, in Parkman, Geauga Co.; son of Lyman and Betsey (Porter) Town. The former was born July 13, 1801, in Chautauqua Co., N. Y., and was a son of Isaac Town. Betsey Porter was born in the same State, Feb. 20, 1808, and was a daughter of John Porter. To Isaac Town was born a family of eleven children, but one now living, Sylvia, who married Stephen Gates, of Geauga Co. Lyman Town was married in New York, and emigrated West to Geauga Co., where he settled in 1846. To him was born a family of eleven children, nine in the Empire State; those living are Isaac; Mary, Mrs. E. White, in Ashtabula Co.; A. C., in Parkman, on the homestead; Ira P.; Francis H.; Roxie Mrs. Edwin Fisher, in Portage Co.; Orrin E., in this township; and Alvira O. (Mrs. Edward Beardsley); all of them in Geauga Co. except Orrin E., Roxie and Mary. Clark Town, son of Isaac, was a soldier in the war of 1812. Of the Town family, there were engaged in the late war Francis H. and Ira P., both members of the 9th Ohio Artillery, the former serving five and the latter three years. Lyman Town

was a farmer, and cleared up a farm in Chautauqua Co. before coming West. He died in Geauga Co., Feb. 13, 1880; his wife survives him. O. E. left home at 23. Jan. 17, 1871, he was married to Mary E. Fellows, who was born July 1, 1849, in Onondaga Co., N. Y.; daughter of Henry and Susan Fellows (his second wife), who was born in Pompey, Onondaga Co., N. Y., July 20, 1813. They were married in Lake Co., Nov. 15, 1840, and had five children, three now living—Stephen, Mary E. and Eunice (Mrs. John Dague); all of this township. Hiram died at Winchester, March 23, 1862; he was a member of Co. K, 8th O. V. I. Since 1871, Mr. Town has resided on the farm he now owns, consisting of 91 acres, which was the farm settled and cleared up by Henry Fellows. To Mr. Town have been born three children—Henry L., Edwin O. and Leo E. Both he and wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

CHARLES P. THATCHER, merchant. Chatham Center; born in Litchfield Township March 7, 1848; son of Buckley and Emery (Culver) Thatcher. He was born Feb. 22, 1806, at Lee, in Berkshire Co., Mass. She was born in same place Feb. 12, 1807; daughter of Solomon and Elizabeth (Leonard) Culver. The genealogy of the Thatcher family runs in this order: The father of Buckley was Timothy, who was born at Wareham, but removed in early life to Lee, Berkshire Co. He there married Dolly (Dorothy) Phelps, Dec. 31, 1799. He was a son of Deacon Roland, who married, June 28, 1773, to Elizabeth Nye, of Rochester, Mass. He was a son of Rev. Roland, who was born Aug. 28, 1710, at Barnstable; was educated for the ministry, and graduated at Harvard College in 1733; was ordained as minister in 1740, and was a Pastor for thirty-four years. His wife was Abigail (Crocker) Roland; was a son of Col. John, born at Yarmouth Jan. 28, 1645. For thirty years, he was Register of Deeds for the county, and for many years Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, and Colonel of a regiment of militia. He died March 17, 1764, at the age of 90. His wife was Desire Sturgis Dimmock. The parents of our subject emigrated West in 1830, arriving in Litchfield in June. He was a cabinet-maker by occupation. After his arrival, he made several removals, first to Elyria, then to Hudson, next to Ridgeville, then to Grafton, and, in 1837, returned to Litchfield, where he located and remained until his death,



which occurred Sept. 16, 1853, by railroad accident near Oneida, N. Y., while returning home from a visit to his friends in Massachusetts. His wife still survives him, and resides with her son Charles P. Of eight children who grew to maturity, but five are now living, viz., James G., in this township; Sarah E., Mrs. F. L. Fairchild, of Mt. Vernon, Ohio; Abigail, with her mother; Charles P. and Timothy D., in Buffalo, Neb. At the age of 16, Charles P. left home and engaged as clerk for one year in Ashland Co. Two years later he purchased a farm and engaged in farming. In 1862, bought a place in this township and remained on the same until he engaged in the mercantile business in 1876, at Chatham Center. Sept. 12, 1871, was married to Lida Packard, who was born June 18, 1851, being the eldest child of Jonathan Packard. To them have been born four children—Roscoe W., Edna L., Lula M. and infant unnamed. He and wife are both members of the Congregational Church. Since March, 1879, has been serving as Postmaster.

O. E. WHITE, farmer; P. O. Chatham Center; born Oct. 12, 1834, in Sheridan Township, Chautauqua Co., N. Y., son of James and Anna (Peebles) White, his father's name was James, and came from the Emerald Isle. To him were born James, David, Daniel, John, William, Henry and Mary; Henry was killed by the falling of a tree. To his son James were born Mary E., Christina E., Oliver O., H. P., Henry, Walter C., Steuben, Oscar F. and Ozro E., of the above number but three are living, Christina E., of Fredonia, N. Y., the wife of O. Doolittle, Oscar in Wauseon, Fulton Co., Ohio, and our subject O. E. James White, the grandfather of Ozro, as well as his great-grandfather John, were soldiers in the war of the Revolution. James, the father of O. E., and his brothers David and John, were in the war of 1812. James White was born in Eastern New York June 14, 1784, his wife, Anna, in 1791; she died in 1855, and her husband Jan. 22, 1873. Mr. White, early in life, removed with parents to Madison Co., N. Y., afterward settled in Chautauqua Co., N. Y., and came West to this county, arriving Feb. 23, 1849. Anna Peebles was a daughter of William F., to whom were born Robert, William, Seth, Riley, Orrisa, Betsey and Anna. Since 1849, our subject has remained on the farm his father first located, consisting of 106 acres. May 3, 1855, our sub-

ject was married to Venila M. Stowell, born in Plainfield, Mass., April 17, 1836, daughter of William and Mary (Shaw) Stowell; he was born in Massachusetts March 28, 1812, she in same State in 1822; his father's name was David, whose wife was Polly Remington, to whom were born Nathan, Sallie, David, William, Harriet, Mehitabel and Clarissa. The Stowells are of Scotch ancestry. Mrs. White's grandfather, on her mother's side, was John. Mrs. White has one brother and one sister living—Lydia A., Mrs. T. Rice, of Sullivan Township, Ashland Co., Ohio, and William H., in Fulton Co., this State. To Mr. and Mrs. White have been born three children, viz.: Mary, born Jan. 3, 1858, now the wife of H. Dustin, of this township; Walter Perry, Jan. 2, 1860, and O. Stowell, born Jan. 1, 1866. Mr. White, since his father's occupancy of this farm, has been a constant resident; is a man of easy habits, and is a lover of fun and good music, especially the violin, upon which he is an excellent performer.

MAJ. WILLIAMS, cheese manufacturer, Chatham Center; was born in La Fayette Township May 22, 1836, the eldest of a family of four children, who are Mary C. (now in Polk Co., Iowa, the wife of Robert McConnell), Henry A. (in Morris Co., Kan.), Herbert R. (in Ravenna, Portage Co., Ohio), all of whom were born to Roswell and Clarinda (Jenkins) Williams. He was born Nov. 24, 1804, in Bennington Co., Vt., son of John Williams, of Welsh ancestry. Clarinda Jenkins was born May 29, 1812, in Jefferson Co., N. Y., and was married to Mr. Williams Oct. 7, 1834. Her father was Abiah Jenkins, who was an early settler in Jefferson Co. In the spring of 1833, Roswell Williams and wife joined the tide of emigration Westward, locating on 200 acres of land now owned by J. Chamberlain, in La Fayette Township. From Medina, their course was marked by blazed trees, the country then being a wilderness. Here, upon this farm, the father of our subject spent the greater part of his life. He died Oct. 5, 1877, his death resulting from accident while in Iowa visiting. He was riding out with his grandchildren, when the horse took fright and threw him out, breaking his ankle. Gangrene setting in, amputation became necessary, which operation he did not survive. For many years, he had been a prominent member in the Congregational Church; was one of its charter members, and for many





years was Deacon. He was a man universally beloved. He was a staunch Whig in the early part of his life; later, he was a member of the Republican party, in which he ever took an active part. Our subject, though raised to farming, at the age of 18 began teaching, which he followed up to 1861, having taught in this time nineteen terms of school. March 26, 1860, he married L. C. Hickox, who was born Jan. 5, 1840, at Monroe Falls, Summit Co., Ohio, daughter of William and Almira (Bissell) Hickox. Both were born in Ontario Co.—he June 12, 1810; she March 29, 1811. He was a son of William Hickox, a soldier in the war of 1812, as were also Maj. Williams' grandfathers Jenkins and Williams. William Hickox, Jr., died in 1872; his wife in 1856. During the first year of the war, our subject was chosen Drill-master of a home company in La Fayette, and, in September of that year (1861), he enlisted, and was chosen Captain of the company, and mustered into Co. B, 42d O. V. I. July 25, 1862, he was commissioned as Major of the regiment, and served until Dec. 4, 1864, serving three years and three months, participating in many battles, some of which were Middle Creek, Chickasaw Bluff, Arkansas Post and Cumberland Gap. During a greater portion of the time, he was in command of the regiment. In May, 1863, he was in command at Thompson's Hill, at Champion Hills and at Black River Bridge. He was in command at the first assault upon the works at Vicksburg, also at Jackson, Miss., and commanded when building bridge of boats across the Atchafalaya River. During his term of three years and three months' service, he came through without a wound or a scratch, at one battle receiving four bullet holes through his clothing. The last gun he heard fired before leaving the front for home, was fired at him by a bushwhacker at short range, which barely grazed his temple. Since the Major returned home, he has been engaged mostly in agricultural pursuits. In 1867, he embarked in the cheese manufactory at La Fayette, which he carried on successfully for twelve years. Since March, 1872, he has been a resident of this township, where he has been engaged in the same enterprise, having had an interest in the Litchfield and Wellington factories. At present, he is mainly interested in the one at Chatham Center, which absorbs the product of eight hundred cows. In political

matters, he has, for several years past, borne a prominent part in the county. During the year 1880, he was a delegate to the State and National Conventions, and was unanimously elected a member of the State Board of Equalization the same year. Is a member of the Congregational Church, and of the Masonic Fraternity, both as W. M. of A. F. & A. M., No. 58, and of the R. A. M., No. 36. Has five children—Gertrude I., Don R., Clare G. and Carl S. (twins), and Blake, the youngest.

J. D. WHITNEY, farmer; P. O. Chatham Center; was born Feb. 23, 1827, in Lewis Co., N. Y., the second of a family of four children, born to his parents, Hiram and Susan (Stanton) Whitney. Hiram Whitney was killed by the falling of a tree, when James was but a lad, and, as a consequence, he knows but little concerning the history of the Whitney family. After the death of his father, he lived with his mother until 12 years of age; then he went to live with a man by the name of Kitts, with whom he lived one year; then he went to Jefferson Co., and lived with his Uncle Hutchinson two years; he worked at the tailor's trade two years; abandoning this, he worked one year at the cabinet-maker's trade; then he sailed on the lake one year; returning again to the cabinet business, he continued two seasons in the employ of Britain; then he returned to the lake again one season; that fall he came out to this county and stayed one year; he returned once more to the lake, and at last came to Medina Co., to remain permanently. Jan. 1, 1843, he was married to Rhoda Smith, an adopted daughter of William Jordan, who was one of the first settlers of the township. After his marriage, he settled in town on a village lot. In the spring of 1850, he caught the gold fever and went to California, remaining one year; he then returned to this county. In 1862, he located on the farm he now owns. His wife died in April, 1874, leaving three children—Mary, now Mrs. S. H. McConnell; Florilla, who married A. Peckham, and James H. Mr. and Mrs. McConnell now reside in Kansas; Florilla and husband in this township. Jan. 14, 1876, he was married to Adaline White, who was born Sept. 20, 1847, in Wayne Co., Ohio, near Smithville; she is a daughter of William and Julia (Stiver) White. Mrs. Whitney is a sister of Mrs. W. A. Cotner, of La Fayette Township. Since Mr. Whitney located here, he has been a constant



resident. He recently sold 16 acres, including his residence and farm buildings, to A. Benton, now used for hotel purposes, and known as the Chatham House. In 1880, he built a new and substantial residence and barn just in the rear of the hotel, and is now very comfortably situated; he has 110 acres adjoining the town on the west. For several years he was engaged in raising short-horn cattle; he afterward sold out to Amasa Clapp. Cast his first vote for Zachary Taylor; has formerly been Democratic, but more recently has taken the Prohibition side, and is a strong temperance man. He has one child by his last marriage—Delbert B.

WILLIAM H. WIDEMAN, farmer; P. O. Chatham Center; was born in this township, Feb. 17, 1845. His parents were Phillip and Elizabeth (Lance) Wideman, W. H. being their fourth child. William's father dying, his mother was married to Phillip Long, with whom our subject lived and worked until past his majority. Afterward he worked out by the month for other parties, and farmed on shares. May 16, 1872, he married Sarah L. Sanford, who was born in Harrisville, Feb. 10, 1849, daughter of D. B. and Nancy Sanford. Shortly after their marriage, he purchased, of his father-in-law, the farm he now owns, which was cleared up by D. B. Sanford himself. Has one son, Lucius, called Luie R.; Leon died aged 2 years 10 months and 6 days. Mr. Wideman is the youngest male member of the Wideman family, and is a representative of one of the most respected families in the county. His wife is a member of the Congregational Church.

ALDEN WHITMAN, farmer and Justice of the Peace; P. O. Chatham Center. Esquire Whitman was born April 9, 1832, in Savoy Township, Berkshire Co., Mass., son of Isaac and Hannah (Packard) Whitman. He was born in Bridgeport, same State, in 1793, and was a son of Jephtha, who was of Irish ancestry. Hannah was born 1803, in Hampshire Co., daughter of Phillip Packard, who for five years was a soldier in the war of the Revolution. The Whitman family came West in 1842, locating in this township, one mile and a half south of the Center, on the farm now owned by John Lange, where he purchased 76 acres, for which he paid \$14 per acre. To Jephtha Whitman were born seven children, whose names were Eben, Isaac, Ephraim, Noble, Ezra, Betsey and Sybil. To Isaac were born three children, two sons and

one daughter, viz.: Alden, Isaac, Jr., and Harriet N.; Alden, of this township; Isaac is now in the mercantile business in Granger Township; Harriet N. is now the wife of J. A. Raw, of Granger. The father of Alden being in poor health, the boys remained with him until some time after becoming men in stature. Father died 1861, she 1863. In 1854, Alden and brother went to Granger Township, where they purchased a saw-mill, and engaged in the lumber business for several years. In 1865, they abandoned the lumber business and engaged in selling goods at Granger Center, which partnership lasted until 1873, when Isaac purchased Alden's interest, and has since been a merchant at that place. July 15, 1856, Alden was married to Susan J. Daniels, who was born in Hampshire Co., Mass., Feb. 1, 1832, daughter of Barney and Mehitabel Daniels. To Mr. Whitman have been born two children—Mary L., now the wife of George E. Noah, on farm adjoining, and Eugene N. Mr. Whitman was elected Justice of the Peace in Granger, and, with the exception of one term, has been a continuous incumbent of the office. Early in life he had the misfortune to injure his left leg by a fall, which gradually grew worse, rendering amputation necessary. He learned the shoemaker's trade, which he followed for some time afterward. He has now 111 acres of land, situated in the south part of the township. Mr. Whitman is a man of kind and generous impulses, and a worthy citizen of the township.

ALVAH YOUNG, farmer; P. O. Chatham Center. The above gentleman was born in Addison Co., Vt., March 23, 1802. His parents were James and Naomi (Clark) Young. James Young was born June 19, 1779; his father was a soldier in the war of the Revolution. To him were born William, Thomas, Samuel, Stephen, James and Lydia. To James were born Melissa, Heman and Alvah. Naomi was a daughter of Michael Clark, to whom were born seven children, four sons and three daughters, who were Samuel, Joseph Thompson, Daniel and Sheldon; daughters were Naomi, Abigail and Lois. James Young was a farmer, and was descended from Scotch ancestors. He died April 9, 1829; his wife survived him until April 9, 1861. Both were members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Alvah was reared to farm labor, remaining at home until he attained his major years. Soon after was joined by marriage to





Lucretia Thompson, of Vermont, daughter of James and Lucretia (Hatfield) Thompson. The marriage record bears date Nov. 24, 1824. In 1835, he emigrated West to this State, locating in Cuyahoga Co., where he remained until 1842. He made a purchase in the north part of the township, where he now lives, of 60½ acres, at \$5 per acre. When he came in to build his cabin, a trail had to be cut into his present location, leaving his family at a house in Litchfield until he could build him a house for their reception; this cabin was covered with elm bark for a roof, under which he lived for several years. Arriving here in June, he succeeded in getting enough cleared to put in six acres of wheat that fall. Being a man of strong and vigorous constitution, and not afraid to labor, he soon had 100 acres cleared and paid for.

Has now 140 acres under excellent improvements. His wife died Sept. 16, 1863, leaving nine children; of those born are Horace, in Monroe Co., Mich.; Jane died in Avon; James, in Lenawee Co., Mich.; Delia, Mrs. James Flager, of Michigan; Mary, now Mrs. C. Moon, of Lorain Co.; Melissa, the wife of E. Moon, of Michigan; Clark D. and George, of this township; Laura L. of La Fayette Township, the wife of John Wideman. Dec. 23, 1864, Mr. Young was married to Vesla Bicknell, who was born in Hoosac, N. Y., November, 1807, daughter of Elijah and Diana (Becker) Bicknell. He was born in New Hampshire; she in New York. To them was born a family of eight children—Cornelia, Nancy E., Vesla, Jane A., Becker, Hiram, Dora and Peter.

### LA FAYETTE TOWNSHIP.

ALVA AVERILL, deceased. He was born Sept. 1, 1794, in Greenfield, Hillsboro Co., N. H.; son of David Averill, to whom were born the following children: Asa, Allen, Sallie, Ethan, Jane, Ruth, Fannie, Ira, Alva. Fannie and David were born in New Hampshire; the others in Kennebec Co., Me., where David removed about the year 1800. Alva was a lad of 14 when his father died, and at that time was thrown upon his own resources, and early in life learned to "rough it." Dec. 2, 1818, he was married to Abigail Averill, his cousin, who was born June 13, 1797; she was a daughter of Elijah and Melitable (Bradford) Averill, to whom were born nine children, of whom she is now the sole survivor. Her father was a stone-cutter and an excellent mechanic, and had been a soldier in the war of the Revolution, receiving his pay in continental money. He selected land in Deering, Mass., with a view to purchasing it, but before he closed the trade his money became worthless. This disheartened him, and, having endured the hardships and exposure of that trying period, he sickened and died soon afterward. He had four brothers and one sister—Eben, Elijah, David, Moses and Ruth; all of these served in the war of the Revolution, and were among the number who, at Valley Forge and other places, suffered such extreme hard-

ships, hunger and exposure. Ira was wounded. After the death of her father, she being then a girl of 7 years, was left to shift for herself, and worked about, and also acted as nurse. She remained four years in the Hutchinson family, of singing fame. She learned to spin and weave, and worked wherever she could obtain employment, and saw hard times in her endeavors to maintain herself and assist her mother in caring for the other children. As stated above, Mr. Averill was married in 1818; he purchased 47 acres in Kennebec Co. (now Franklin), Me., and remained there until 1834, when he determined to cast in his fortunes with the West; starting that fall, he came by canal to Rochester, where he spent the winter. He left there April 28, and, with staff in hand, walked out and took up 104 acres (where Jemima now resides), and, returning as he came, brought out his family in a wagon, reaching here June 12. Six weeks from his arrival, they moved into their log dwelling. Here he remained until removed by death, Jan. 23, 1861. He was a man of sound judgment, and a correct business man. In his younger days, he worked at the carpenter's trade, and was naturally ingenious, turning his hand cleverly to anything of a mechanical nature. The Averill family have long been Democratic; his father



cast the first Democratic vote in Temple Township, Me. Alva, however, after the passage of the Fugitive Slave Law, voted the Republican ticket. His widow, having passed the allotted span of life, still retains her faculties to such an extent as seems to indicate a further lease of life. The farm, consisting of 160 acres, is being carried on, and managed very successfully, by her daughter Jemima, who is the only child living.

MRS. OLNEY ALLEN, retired; Medina; was born in Pleasant Valley, Litchfield Co., Conn., May 15, 1808, daughter of Eben Woodruff, whose wife's maiden name was Rhoda Coe. Mr. Woodruff was born in 1774, in Farmington, Hartford Co., Conn., his wife in Winchester, Litchfield Co., Conn., in 1777; Eben's father's name was Elisha; Rhoda Coe was a daughter of Jonathan Coe; Eben died in 1850, his wife in 1848; they had a family of six children. Feb. 16, 1833, our subject was married to Mr. Olney Allen, who was born Dec. 6, 1806, in Constableville, N. Y.; he was a son of Willard and Polly (Wadsworth) Allen, to whom were born six children, five sons and a daughter. After the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Allen, they went by stage to Albany, thence to Buffalo by canal, then by steamboat to Cleveland; when he came to this township he had but \$200 in money. He was a cooper by trade. Upon his arrival, he purchased land of Edward Starr, for which he paid \$8 per acre; three acres of it were cleared, and there was a small log cabin on the place. At this time, there was but one road in the township which led from Medina to Harrisville, there being but four houses on the route. Mr. Allen was a successful business man, and accumulated a good property, besides 160 acres of land, which Mrs. Allen now owns. He died, Oct. 6, 1880, leaving his wife and one son to mourn his loss. Mr. Allen was a good citizen, an upright man and a kind husband; he was a Republican and well read in the topics of the day.

WILLIAM AVERILL, farmer; P. O. Witlesey; was born in Milford, Hillsboro Co., N. H., July 21, 1826, one of a family of seven children, six of whom grew to maturity, viz.: Lucinda, Eben, Elijah, Thomas, William and Andrew; of these, Elijah, William and Lucinda are living. All of the above were born to Elijah, Sr., and Amanda (Towne) Averill. The former was born Jan. 24, 1792; the latter May 20, 1797. He was a son of Elijah Averill, and

a native of New Hampshire. The Averills are of English descent. The grandfather of William Averill was a "minute-man" in Revolutionary times, and his uncle Shubael was engaged in the war of 1812, and was afterward killed in the Florida war by the Indians; indeed, all the company were killed except the Lieutenant. In the fall of 1836, Elijah, Sr., walked out with knapsack on his back, to look for a home for himself and family; coming directly to this county he selected 50 acres and walked back; he returned with his family same year, being twenty-nine days on the road; came here and settled on the land William now owns, which was then unimproved; he built a frame house soon after his arrival, which was the first one built in the neighborhood—the one William now occupies. Their outfit in coming was a two-horse team and a one-horse rig. One of these horses did the greater part of the logging which was done on the farm in cleaning it up. The first enterprise in the way of farming after their arrival, was the growth and cultivation of hops, which they carried on for about fifteen years, as they cleared the land. Elijah Averill was a man of few words; very few had as good control of their temper; he was a man of good mind, and a great reader, and possessed of general information; he died in October, 1862; his wife survived him eight years; he was highly respected in the community. April 20, 1871, William was married to Cornelia Blanchard, who was born in Guilford Township, Sept. 1, 1828, daughter of Ransil and Mary Ann (Gaylord) Blanchard. The former was from near Hartford, Conn., and was born Feb. 23, 1804; he came West when of age and stopped at Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, where he was married; he became foreman for Newberry, and assisted in building the first dam at Cuyahoga Falls; he was brick-mason by trade; after his removal from Cuyahoga Co., he went to Summit Co.; he next moved into Guilford as early as 1824 or 1826. To him were born ten children, five boys and five girls. The father died Oct. 29, 1880, and the mother Nov. 23, 1861. Lucinda, sister of William, was born Nov. 17, 1814, and resided with her brother. Mr. Averill is one of the few who still reside upon the same piece of land originally settled on by their ancestors; he is a member of Lodi Lodge, No. 137, A. F. & A. M., also of Medina Chapter R. A. M., No. 30. Mr. Averill has no children.





JOSEPH H. BARRETT, farmer; P. O. Chippewa Lake; was born Oct. 9, 1829, in Sutfield Township, Portage Co., Ohio. His parents were Lewis and Sarah (Snyder) Barrett, to whom were born ten children, who have settled in different States of the Union, four in California—James, Sophia (Mrs. John Sharp), Sarah (Mrs. Anson Eldridge), and Ann (Mrs. George Favinger); Lewis is now in Macon Co., Mo.; William, in Wadsworth Township; Elizabeth, deceased, Mrs. Robert Carnes, formerly of St. Joseph Co., Mich.; Emily, Mrs. Jacob Botorf, of same place as above; Joseph H., sixth of the children; Nelson, who died in the service of his country, being a member of Co. D, 42d O. V. I. The father of our subject was born in Philadelphia Feb. 13, 1794, and was married in Northumberland Co., April 27, 1807. His wife was born in Lancaster, Penn., Aug. 3, 1794. He learned the blacksmith's trade at Philadelphia, and moved West about 1823, locating in Unionton, Portage Co., Ohio, where he worked at his trade several years, and accumulated some property, which he afterward traded for a farm near Unionton. After clearing up a portion of the same, he sold out, and moved to the "White Oak Openings," in Sutfield Township, and purchased 118 acres, where Joseph was born. Here he remained until our subject was 9 years of age. He then disposed of his property and moved to Fulton Co., near Maumee; remained here but two years, then moved to Canaan Township, Wayne Co., where he lived until 1847. He then moved to this township, remaining until his death, which occurred Jan. 28, 1870; his wife died April 24, 1877. He was a man of retiring disposition, of firm and decided opinions, and few words—a stanch and upright man, and member of the United Brethren Church, while his wife was of the Methodist faith. The Barretts are of French stock. The grandfather of our subject was a cousin of Gen. La Fayette, and came over with him and joined the army during the Revolution; was afterward taken prisoner, and, while confined, it was plotted by some of the British to poison him, which fact was communicated to him by a lady of the prison. A marked attachment sprang up between them, and she planned his escape. When bringing his food, she came disguised in man's apparel, having on two suits. One of them, he hastily donned, and passed out, unnoticed, and joined his command. After the

war terminated, he hunted her up, and they were married, and settled in Philadelphia. To them, were born five children. Lewis, the father of our subject, was the youngest of the number. At the age of 20, our subject began for himself; worked out by the month for three years. Dec. 21, 1853, he was married to Margaret Palmer, who was born in this township Aug. 6, 1837, the fourth of the children born to Jonathan and Elizabeth (Dickey) Palmer, who came to this county in 1835. After marriage, he settled in Milton Township, Wayne Co., for a short time, then moved to Elkhart, Ind., with a view to making it a permanent home; but, on account of ill health, on advice of a physician, he returned to this State, and finally came to this township, in 1856, and has since resided here. Eleven children have been born—Lucy J. (Mrs. James Dundast, of Montville), Art, Alamedora, Ada, Sherman, Clara, Orrie, Ina, Gertrude, Mary, and Mabel (deceased). Mr. Barrett and wife are members of the Presbyterian Church. Mr. Barrett's father had three brothers and one sister. One, Caleb, was for twenty years a County Treasurer.

ISAAC BLAIR, retired farmer; P. O. Chatham; is one of the early settlers of this township, and was born Feb. 4, 1805, in Madison Township, Madison Co., N. Y. His parents, David and Eunice Blair, were natives of Massachusetts, and had a family of six children, three of each sex, Isaac being the oldest son; three are now living—Arba, who now resides on the homestead in New York; Freeman, in Michigan; and our worthy subject, who was reared to farm work, which he has ever since followed. In starting in life, he had no assistance from his father. He worked out by the month for several years and saved some means, with which he intended to purchase some wild land in the West. Jan. 1, 1829, he was united in marriage to Louisa Phinney, who was born in Oneida Co., N. Y.; daughter of Benjamin Phinney, whose wife was a Yeoman. By this wife, two children were born to Mr. Blair—Hamilton M. and Louisa E.; the former a resident of Cuyahoga Co., this State, and the latter now in Clayton Co., Iowa, the wife of Charles S. Blair. In 1834, Mr. Blair came West to this county; and purchased 70 acres of unimproved land, at \$4 per acre. He erected a log cabin on the same, and returned to New York to bring his family out, but, in conse-



quence of the death of his wife, his plans were entirely changed. He sent his brother out, who occupied the premises until 1837, when he moved out, bringing with him his present wife, who was Rebecca Houghton, a native of Worcester, N. Y., and was born Jan. 11, 1804; a daughter of Ebenezer and Margery (Bigelow) Houghton. Ebenezer was a son of Ebenezer. The father of Margery was named Joshua. The land that Mr. Blair first located and cleared up was that now owned by Mr. William Moody, which was afterward added to until it comprised 125½ acres. By his last marriage, there have been two children—Harriet M., now the wife of N. H. Wyatt, in Clyde; and Lewis H., who lost his life while in Washington, D. C., where he was serving out his term of enlistment as a member of Co. C, 79th O. N. G. Mr. and Mrs. Blair now reside on land adjoining his first purchase, having a good home, and are enjoying the reward of their hard labor in peace and happiness, having been esteemed citizens of the community for over forty-three years. Mrs. B. is a member of the Congregational Church.

GEORGE C. BUCHANAN, carpenter and farmer; P. O. Whittlesey; was born Sept. 21, 1830, in Brooke Co., Va. His parents were Samuel and Nancy (Wilson) Buchanan. He was born in Washington Co., Penn., Dec. 9, 1793, she in Brooke Co., Va., March 7, 1794. Her father's name was Adam Wilson, a native of the Emerald Isle. Samuel Buchanan was a son of John, whose ancestors were natives of Germany. To Samuel Buchanan were born seven children, four sons and three daughters, but five living, viz.: Nathan R., Wilson, George C., Mary J. and Sarah Ann. To John Buchanan, the grandfather of our subject, were born seven children, who were John, David, George, Samuel, Polly, Ann and Katy. But three of the number came West—Samuel, David and Polly. But one of the number now survives—Ann. Samuel, the father of George, came West in 1846, locating in this township, where he purchased 64 acres of land, for which he paid \$560, and remained in the township until his death, which occurred March 7, 1861, that of his wife March 14, 1880, in York Township. Both were members of the United Brethren Church, and were among the first who joined that body. George was 24 years of age before leaving the parental home, at which time he married Lydia Carlton, born Feb. 10, 1835, in this township.

The marriage day was Oct. 12, 1854. Her parents were John and Catharine (Amon) Carlton, who were among the first settlers in the north part of the township. Since Mr. Buchanan's marriage, he has been a resident of the township. In 1864, he went out in Co. D, 166th O. N. G., and served one hundred days. Before marriage, he learned the carpenter's trade, which he followed for five years. For six years he was engaged in running the saw-mill at this place, in company with Mr. Carlton, under the firm name of Carlton & Buchanan. Mr. Buchanan has a snug farm, which is located at the center of the township. Aside from his knowledge of the carpenter's trade, he is also engaged in painting. They have two children, viz., Ida F., now the wife of Henry Moody, of this township, and George W., yet at home. Both Mr. and Mrs. Buchanan are efficient workers in the Congregational Church, of which they are members. Since the age of 19, he has been a professed Christian; his wife, since 14.

JOSEPH BADGER, deceased. The Badger family can, with pride, point to a noble ancestry. Several of them have been distinguished for ability, and held high positions; some have been active in the defense of their country, some in the cause of education, the administration of justice and the affairs of political life. The Badger family are of English origin, and trace the founder of the family to Giles Badger, who settled in Newbury, Mass., in 1643, twenty-three years after the landing of the Pilgrims. The subject of this sketch was a grandson of Maj. Peaslee Badger, born in Haverhill, Mass., in 1756. He was a son of Gen. Joseph Badger, and brother of Hon. William Badger, who was Governor of New Hampshire. Gen. Joseph Badger was born Jan. 11, 1722, and was a son of Joseph. In the time of the Revolution, he was an active and efficient officer, was muster master of the troops raised in that section, and employed in furnishing supplies for the army; was a member of the Provincial Congress, and a member of the Convention that adopted the Constitution; was appointed Brigadier General, June 27, 1780, and Judge of Probate for Stafford County, December, 1784, and member of the State Council from 1784 to 1791. The subject of these lines was born May 1, 1823, in Compton, Lower Canada, and afterward removed with his parents to New York State, and subsequently, to this State and county. July





15, 1849, he was married to Amanda F. Phillips, who was born Aug. 27, 1823, in Bath, Ontario Co., N. Y., daughter of Daniel and Achsah (Simmons) Phillips. He was born in Vermont, June 17, 1787, son of Zebulon Phillips. Mrs. B. came West with her parents to Huron County, remaining five years, removed to Sandusky City, where they lived until 1840, when they located at Morse's Corners, in Westfield Township; subsequently came to La Fayette Center, where he died about the year 1850. After the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Badger, they moved to Cuyahoga County, afterward to New London, remaining there four years, then to Norwalk, in Huron County. Mr. Badger served as Deputy Sheriff four years, and, in 1861, was elected Sheriff of the county, served out his term and was honored by a re-election, and died during his last term, Aug. 21, 1864; his death occasioned from injuries received by being thrown from his horse. He was a man highly esteemed, of noble impulses, and a strong temperance man. To them have been born four children—Dudley Irving; Ida L., now Mrs. Dayton Eddy, of Montville; Fred S. and Lelia F. The family came to this township in 1870 from Huron County, and have since been residents of the county.

F. W. BARNHART, farmer; P. O. Whittlesey; was born Aug. 31, 1825, in Butler Co., Penn.; the youngest of a family of fourteen children born to Philip and Elizabeth (Rice) Barnhart. The father was born in Westmoreland Co., Penn., July 17, 1778, and was a son of Frederick Barnhart, who was born in Westmoreland Co. in 1752; he was an old Revolutionary soldier, and a noted and successful Indian fighter, shrewd and brave; he was more than a match for the wily antagonist, and many a redskin fell before his unerring rifle. He was a great woodsman, and would often spend days together in the woods alone, hunting. At one time, the Indians made a raid in that locality when he was absent; his wife, grasping her child in one hand, and the mush-pot in the other, made her escape; the men being absent fighting Indians at Harrisburg, Penn. Philip Barnhart was a miller by trade, and was born in Germany in 1746, and emigrated to Pennsylvania and settled in Westmoreland Co. in 1764; he afterward moved to Butler Co. after marriage, and was one of the first settlers in that locality. He was also a carpenter and millwright; he

laid out the town of Millerstown, and gave it its name, naming the post office, Mills. Frederick Rice, the grandfather of our subject, was a miller, and owned a stone mill. He finally moved from Westmoreland Co., and bought two sections of land from the Government, locating at Meadville, Penn.; afterward he disposed of his land and moved to Wayne Co., where he bought two sections. The Infirmary now stands on a portion of that purchase. His sons were Barney, Simon, Christian and Peter. Barney settled on the part of the land the Infirmary now stands on, and Simon on the other portion; Christian settled in Pittsburgh; Peter in Spencer Township, this county. Frederick Rice, the old veteran and time-honored soldier, died in February, 1848, and was buried at Wooster with the honors of war. The mother of our subject was born in 1783, and was married in 1800; she died in March, 1852; her husband, Philip, June 24, 1860. Of their family there grew up, eleven children, five sons and six daughters. Philip Barnhart was a miller, and laid out the town of Millersburg, in Donegal Township, and owned and ran a mill at that place as early as 1830. Our subject early in life learned the miller's trade. He came West in 1849; since his advent to this country he has had an eventful and varied career. Soon after coming, he engaged in the dry goods business for two years; subsequently, bought an interest in a saw-mill in Lorain Co., which burned down two weeks later, without insurance. He was engaged in running a mill in this township for a while, selling out to J. Simmons; from there he went to Cedar Valley, Wayne Co., where he ran a mill a short time; he then went to Wooster, where he built a mill of 200-barrel capacity, which was destroyed by fire. In 1866, he went to Brooklyn, N. Y., and there superintended a large merchant mill at that place for ten years; he being one of the best millers of his time; his services have always been in great demand, and at the highest salary. Returning to this county, he, in 1876, began farming, in which he has since been engaged. His farm, situated one mile east of the Center, consisting of 236 acres of rich alluvial, bottom-land, once worthless, but, which by the energy of Mr. Gooding, who forced a ditch through it, has become the most valuable land in the township. Oct. 18, 1853, Mr. Barnhart was married to Clarissa Gooding, born Jan. 28, 1834, daughter of William R. and



Lucy (Allen) Gooding; he was born in Massachusetts, she in New York State. Great credit is due Mr. Gooding for the zeal he displayed in redeeming the swamp land of the township. Mr. Barnhart has the following children—Emma, a teacher of music; William, now in St. Louis, in the United States Mail Service, and a graduate of Oberlin College; Clara, Florence, Arthur and Austin, twins. During the fall of 1880, Mr. Barnhart met with a serious accident, breaking his hip, which now places him in a very critical condition.

ALFRED BOWMAN, farmer; P. O. Whittlesey. The Bowman family has been identified with the interests of the county, for upward of one-half a century. The family is descended from Christopher, who was a native of Germany, born about the year 1783, and father of fourteen children, eight sons and six daughters, who were John, Christopher, Daniel, Peter, Adam, Jacob, William and Josiah; the daughters were Betsey, Susannah, Sarah, Mary, Catharine and Savina. Of this number, all grew to maturity, save Josiah. Christopher's wife, before marriage, was Savina Shafer, whose parents came from Germany. This couple was married in Cumberland Co., and emigrated West to Summit Co., about the year 1818, where they remained a short time, then went to Stark Co., stayed seven years, then removed to Wayne Co., where he lived two years, then came to this township, and took up a lot about 1836, adjoining William Carlton's on the south. Here he remained until his death, he and his wife being buried the same day. Of the family now living are Peter Bowman, born in Cumberland Co., Penn., Dec. 4, 1817, now residing in La Fayette Center, married Sevilla Waltz, and by her has had four children—Amos M., Statura, Lilly M. and Frederick F. The next son was Adam, now of this township; Catharine, now Mrs. Stephen Fairbanks, in Wood Co., Ohio; Savina, now Mrs. Josiah Fairbanks, of the same county, and William, of York Township. All of the above, except Peter, were born in Ohio. The subject of these lines was born Nov. 27, 1829, in Chippewa Township, Wayne Co., Ohio, he eldest child of a family of twelve, born to John and Sarah (Traxler) Bowman. John was born in Cumberland Co., Penn., and emigrated with his parents to this State and township, when it was almost a wilderness. Of the children who are living, Christopher C. is in Michigan; Augustus is in

Sandusky, Ohio; Mary, now Mrs. G. W. Waltz, of this township; Amanda, now Mrs. Seth Ault, of La Fayette; Dianah, now Mrs. Joseph Ault, of Montville Township; Adaime, now Mrs. George F. Miller, of this township. Alfred, our subject, was married Jan. 30, 1850, to Adeline Moulton, who was born Jan. 24, 1831, daughter of Esquire Earl Moulton, one of the prominent citizens and early settlers of this township. Since 1865, he has been a resident of the farm he now owns, consisting of 95 acres located in the west part of the township. He was a soldier in the late war, enlisting in Co. B, 124th O. V. V. I., Oct. 3, 1862, for three years, and served until the termination of the war, receiving an honorable discharge June 14, 1865. Although he escaped without sustaining any bodily injuries, yet his sight has become seriously impaired in consequence of his exposure during that time. Of two children born him, but one is living—Leandus, who resides with his parents.

O. H. CRUSH, farmer; P. O. Whittlesey; was born June 15, 1810, in Middlefield Township, Otsego Co., N. Y.; son of Peter and Celinda (Ross) Crush. He was born in Cherry Valley, N. Y., in May, 1788, and was a son of Francis, which name goes back yet two generations further. Francis Crush was a native of Germany. Celinda Ross was born Aug. 14, 1788, in Rhode Island, daughter of John Ross, whose wife was Elizabeth Henry, who was born Aug. 28, 1766; she was a daughter of James Henry, a native of Ireland. The Ross family are of Scotch descent. To Francis Crush were born four children—Evangeline, Elsie, Sarah and Peter. To Peter Crush were born seven children, three sons and four daughters; the sons were Orlando H., Francis and Peter; the daughters—Hope, Clarissa, Asenath and Mary. The girls were married and settled as follows: Hope married E. D. Parsons, of Chatham; Clarissa became Mrs. Reuben Gridley, of Lodi; Mary is now Mrs. Frizzell, of Westfield Township. Orlando came West, with his parents, when he was 11 years of age; his father located in the northwest part of Westfield Township. The country was then almost an unbroken forest. Mr. Crush states that there were no houses in La Fayette, York nor Litchfield, and but one in Chatham at the time of his father's location here. Mr. Crush's death occurred May 26, 1823, soon after his arrival;





that of his wife was five years later, Sept. 29, 1827. At the age of 15, Orlando went to live with a man by the name of Hubbard. After reaching his majority, he hired out to work by the month. Nov. 7, 1837, he was married to Samantha Phinney, who was born in 1819; he located on the farm which he now owns, in 1837, and has since remained here. Of his two children, but one is living—Calvin, born in November, 1843, who is married, and settled on the farm adjoining his father's residence. Mr. Crush had but meager school advantages, and has acquired most of his education since he grew up. He is a great reader, and is fond of history, having in his possession a good assortment of historical works. Mr. Crush is a Democrat, ever ready to defend the principles laid down by Jackson and Jefferson. Mr. Crush is now retired, having given over his farm and its management principally to his son, and is spending the remainder of his days in the quiet of his home.

ALLEN CARLTON, farmer; P. O. Whittlesey; was born June 24, 1824, in Louisville Township, St. Lawrence Co., N. Y., the second of a family of eight children, three sons and five daughters; of those who lived to be married are Mary A., now of Allegan Co., Mich., the wife of John Jordan; Allen, of this township; Catharine, now Mrs. Abram Jordan, of Monroe Co., Mich., and Lydia, now Mrs. George Buchanan, of this township. Margaret died at the age of 20; Eri settled in this township, went out in the late war, died in the service; was a member of Co. K, 166th O. N. G. All of the above were born to John and Catharine (Amon) Carlton. John was born Sept. 20, 1799, in Groton, Mass., and was a son of Solomon. Catharine was born June 20, 1797, in Canada West, across from Ogdensburg; her father was John Amon. John Carlton was married in 1822, and came West in 1828, and located in Portage Co., where he remained until April 23, 1834, when he located permanently in this township, on Lot 7, where he purchased 53 acres at \$3.50; at this time, there was but one road through the township, which led from Medina to Lodi, in Harrisville. Allen left home at 20, to learn the carpenter's trade and millwright work, at which he worked twelve years. May 25, 1851, he was married to Lucy A. —, who was born Nov. 8, 1832, in Erie Co., N. Y., daughter of Anson and Lydia

(Waters) —. He was born in Vermont, Feb. 16, 1802; she was born in November, 1800; they were married Feb. 16, 1831. They had four children. Mrs. Carlton was one year old when her parents came to Ohio, where they settled in the southern part of the State. Allen went to Lorain Co. in 1849, where he worked at his trade, and here he was married, as above recorded. He built a saw-mill here; also a large flouring-mill in Ashland Co., Ohio. Returning to Lorain Co. in 1850, he engaged in partnership with Fred Barnhart and built a saw-mill, which burned down, but was rebuilt. He stayed here but a short time. In 1856, he moved to the farm he now owns, which was the same place his father settled. Mr. Carlton has been quite successful in his business, being a tireless worker, and good financier. He has now 201 acres of excellent land. He has four children—Roselina, now the wife of Cyrus F. Daniels, in Westfield; Lucy A., Edgar R. and Eva M. at home. Mr. Carlton is a great reader, and is well versed in common law, particularly that portion which relates to the settlement of estates; is one of the best historians in the township, and is well posted in the general principles that relate to *Materia Medica*.

WILLIAM H. COLE, farmer; P. O. Medina; is a native of the Empire State, and was born in Jackson Township, Washington Co., Nov. 11, 1816. He had four brothers and three sisters. Their parents were Curtis and Ann (Ford) Cole. Maj. Curtis Cole, the grandfather of our subject, was a ship carpenter and an officer in the Revolutionary war, to whom were born ten children—Belcher, William, Polly, Prudence, Elsie, Sarah, Ruby, Betsey, Jonathan and Curtis. Belcher and Jonathan were seafaring men; the former lost his life on the ocean, being swept off at night by a bowsprit while attending to his duties. The others removed with their father to Washington Co., and afterward settled down to agricultural pursuits. Ann Ford, mother of William, was a daughter of Charles Ford, whose wife was a Skinner; to them were born four children—Rachel, Ann, George H. and an infant son who died young. Mr. Cole was raised to hard labor and economical habits. Soon after reaching his majority, he went South to Lansingburg, where he clerked some time, also at Troy, and was employed as a teacher in the common schools, continuing in these several localities until he attained his



28th year, when he married Sarah M. Harrington, who was born July 18, 1817, in Bennington Co., Vt., and daughter of Henry and Sarah (Manchester) Harrington. He was born Feb. 14, 1770, in Exeter, Washington Co., R. I., and was a son of Henry Harrington. Sarah Manchester was born July 24, 1800, near the "Whiteside Church," in West Cambridge, Washington Co., N. Y. Her father's name was Elias, a native of England, and a soldier in the war of the Revolution, and participated in the battles of Bunker Hill and Lexington, and was at Valley Forge, and afterward died of camp dysentery. Mr. Cole's grandfather, Harrington, was a commissioned Captain, and, during the war, had charge of the mail and attended to the transportation of the provisions for the soldiers. At one time during the war, the French fleet, having left on shore a large quantity of flour in barrels, and, not being able to convey it away with them in their haste, piled the same up in a circle and built a fire in the center, leaving it to burn. Capt. Harrington discovered it in time—put out the fire, and saved the flour for a better use. The Manchester family were of Quaker origin. Mrs. Cole's grandmother's maiden name was Boyce. After the marriage of Mr. Cole, he located on land which he had purchased in Jackson of Squire Clark, where he remained until his removal to this county, which occurred in the spring of 1853, and made a purchase of 64 acres of Edward Starr, the original settler. He has since made additions to the same, until he now has 87 acres in all. Of eight children born to him, but five are living—Sarah, now in Granger Township, the wife of Albert Codding; Jane, unmarried; Mary, Mrs. Charles Warren; Lewis, at home, and married to Cora B. Witter; and Henrietta, wife of Griffin Foote. Mr. Cole is a true representative of that sturdy, industrious class of New England farmers, so noted for their thrift and enterprise.

WILLIAM A. CARLTON, farmer; P. O. Whittlesey; is among the pioneers of this township, and is now residing on the farm he settled on in 1834. He was born Feb. 7, 1812, near Santa Cruz, twenty miles up the river from Cornwall, Lower Canada, and son of Solomon and Nabbie (Haven) Carlton, both natives of Old Groton, Mass. His birth occurred in November, 1773, and he died June 13, 1856. The family of Carltons are of Scotch origin. Will-

iam A.'s grandfather had five children—Solomon, Eri, William, Rebecca and Betsey. Solomon Carlton removed to St. Lawrence Co., N. Y., when W. A. was 11 years of age, remaining there until 1827, when he removed to Portage Co., this State, purchasing a tract of land in the woods, where he settled, and remained upon it until his decease, June 13, 1859. William was, early in life, inured to hardships and the inconveniences incident to the settlement of a new country, and, with the experience fresh in mind which he passed through while a member of his father's household, he was fully prepared to undertake the task of pioneering on his own account. In 1834, he first came to this township and bought 108½ acres where he now owns, and for which he paid \$3.75. After locating his land, went to Medina, where he spent the winter, returning to his place the spring following, and began clearing up his land by cutting down six acres. He then worked out by the month until the time arrived for him to begin logging, preparatory to sowing it in wheat that fall. The ensuing winter, he cut seven acres more, a portion of which he planted in corn. Keeping bachelor's hall became rather irksome, and he sought the hand of Miss Lydia A. Thomas in marriage—one of his old schoolmates. Their nuptials were celebrated Nov. 11, 1836. She was born in Adams Township, Jefferson Co., March 1, 1818, daughter of Benajah C. and Nabbie (Sanger) Thomas, both natives of Connecticut—he of Roxbury, she of Norwich. His father's name was David Thomas, while her paternal ancestor was Abijah Sanger. The Thomas family are of Welsh and the Sanger's of French descent. Mrs. Carlton's family came to Portage Co. in 1818, and located in Hudson Township, where they lived until she was 13, when they removed to Streetsboro Township. There were twelve children in the family, eight sons and four daughters. Eleven lived to grow up. There are now living Calvin, in Ft. Wayne, Ind.; Marvin R., in Columbiata Co., Wis.; Laura, widow of David Hall, and Nancy, Mrs. Andrew Wilson, both of Summit Co. After Mr. Carlton's marriage, he started the next day for his cabin home, which was 18x24 feet, and which he had previously built for her reception. They lived in this until 1844, when they built the residence they now occupy. Their union has been blessed with a family of twelve children, ten of whom lived to





reach maturity. Nine now survive—Cecelia N., in Harrisville; William E., in Chatham; Franklin H., in Michigan; Mary L. (Mrs. Isaac W. Gates), of Harrisville Township; George, Walter, Julius, Eli and Willis, in this township. Mr. Carlton and wife are both members of the United Brethren Church, and were among the first members at its organization. His farm, consisting of 145 acres, is one of the best in the neighborhood.

EBEN CHAPIN, farmer; P. O. Whittlesey; is of the seventh generation of the Chapin family, to which they can trace their genealogy, beginning with Samuel, who resided in Roxbury, Mass., in 1642, and was a Deacon. His son was Japhet, who married Abeline Cooley, and by her had ten children, who were as follows: Samuel, Sarah, Thomas, John, Ebenezer, two Hannahs, David, two Jonathans. Third generation: Ebenezer, of Enfield, who was born June 26, 1677, and married Ruth Jones, on Dec. 1, 1702; he was an early settler in Hadley, living many years in a log cabin in constant fear of the Indians. To him were born fourteen children, viz.: Ebenezer, Rachel, Noah, Seth, Moses, Aaron, Elias, Reuben, Charles, David, Elisha, Phineas, Elijah and Catharine. The boys all settled on Somers's Mountain. Fourth generation: Ebenezer, of Enfield, born Sept. 23, 1705, and married Elizabeth Pease, Nov. 22, 1733, and by her had eight children, who were Ebenezer, Eliphalet, Sophia, Elizabeth, Ruth, Tabitha, Enener and Love. Fifth generation was Ebenezer, born Oct. 4, 1735, and married May 4, 1758, to Melitable Bartlett, of Stafford; to them were born children as follows: Melitable, Mary, Susan, Ebenezer, Sarah, Triphena, Joel, Samuel, Timothy and Patience. Sixth generation: Ebenezer, who was born June 15, 1766, and was married Dec. 20, 1792, to Beulah Pease, by whom he had ten children, whose names were, Peter, Beulah, Perses, Peter, Guy P., Calvin, John P., Nancy, Eben and Emily. Eben, our subject, was born in Hartford, Conn., Oct. 3, 1812, and emigrated West in 1836, locating in this township in October of the same year, and purchased 107 acres in the south part of the township. Jan. 20, 1839, he was married to Maria S. Gates, who was born in Rodman, Jefferson Co., N. Y., Feb. 6, 1818, daughter of Silas and Sallie (Gridley) Gates. He was born in Worcester Co., Mass., July 27, 1789 and came to New

York at the age of 18, and was married, June 30, 1812, to Sallie G., who was born in Farmington, Conn., April 8, 1793. To them were born thirteen children, she being the fourth. They emigrated West in 1833, locating in this township. Mr. Gates died in 1859; his wife March 18, 1849. In 1866, Mr. Chapin moved to his present place, where he has since resided. To him have been born three children, but two of the number living, viz.: Amelia, now Mrs. C. W. Hickox, of Medina; Emily A. (died young); Emma, now the wife of M. A. Bowman, of Clinton Township, Summit Co. They also had one adopted son, who now bears his name, James F., in Akron. Mr. Chapin has been a member of the Congregationalist Church for forty-one years, and Deacon for several successive years; is now serving as Township Clerk for the eighth term, and has filled the office of Township Treasurer and Clerk of the church. He has ever been a solid Republican, and an upright and useful citizen. His father died at New Philadelphia, Ohio, Sept. 30, 1838. His mother Dec. 30, 1853.

JOHN B. CHASE, farmer and stock-raiser; was born in Pompey Township, Onondaga Co., N. Y., March 24, 1811; is of a numerous progeny, he being the fifth of a family of thirteen children; eleven of the number grew to maturity, who were Thomas C., Levi, John B., Philura, Harriet, Polly, Sarah, Charles, Orrilla, Ada A. and Marshall, all of whom were born to Levi and Sarah (Bassett) Chase. His father's name was Levi, who was also a son of Levi. Both of the parents above mentioned were born in Massachusetts—the former, May 25, 1781, in Berkshire Co.; the latter, April 13, 1782. They were married Feb. 11, 1802, and emigrated West in the fall of 1834, and purchased 531 acres in this township, at a cost of \$4.50 per acre. Here he settled, and remained until his death, which occurred March 11, 1845; she Nov. 28, 1853. Of the family now living are Marshall, now in Michigan; Sallie, now Mrs. S. E. Kinney, of Litchfield Township, and John B. Mr. Chase was married in June, 1836, to Anna Wood, and by her had one child, Levi A., who died in the service of his country. He was born Feb. 7, 1841; enlisted October, 1861, in Co. B, 42d O. V. I., and died of chronic diarrhoea, June 2, 1863. Mrs. Chase died Nov. 27, 1846. July 3, three years later, he was united in marriage to Sophia Gates, who was born in Jefferson Co.,



N. Y., May 30, 1827, daughter of Silas and Sallie (Gridley) Gates. He was born in Petersham, Mass., July 9, 1789; she in Farmington, April 8, 1793. He died in August, 1859; she in March, 1849. To them were born a family of thirteen children; ten of the number came West with their parents in 1833 to Westfield Township. Seven of the number are now living; two of the boys, Luke and John S., were in the late war. To Mr. and Mrs. Chase have been born two children—Clarence J. and Merton G. Clarence was elected County Auditor in the fall of 1880, and is at present serving in that capacity. They had one adopted daughter, Emma L., now married. Since Mr. Chase first arrived in this township, he has been a constant resident on the farm he now owns, which was a part of the land his father purchased upon his arrival. Farming has been the business of his life. During the early part of his manhood, he taught school several terms; has always been a substantial member of the community, and has served in an official way at different times; now serving as Infirmary Director for his third term. He has ever been a man that is strictly temperate, using neither spirituous liquors nor tobacco. Politically, has been Republican, and, during the late war, was a staunch supporter of the Union cause. His father was a Deacon in the Baptist Church. Mrs. Chase's parents were members of the Congregational Church. Mr. Chase's barn was the first frame building of the kind erected in the township.

JOHN CHAMBERLAIN, farmer; P. O. Whittlesey; was born in Greenfield, N. H., June 25, 1829; was the fifth child of a family of seven children, all of whom grew to maturity. His parents were Abraham and Mary (Clark) Chamberlain, his birth occurring Jan. 30, 1792, in Vermont; that of his wife Jan. 12, 1791. They emigrated West in 1833, selecting as their future home a plat of ground in Westfield Township, located just west of Chippewa Lake, which consisted of 200 acres of solid timber, through which the Indians had traversed for many years, upon their way to and from the lake which bears their name. Here upon this spot, Abraham Chamberlain began his Western career; a suitable log cabin was erected, and a clearing commenced. Of the children born to Mr. Chamberlain (the father of our subject) were Frederick B., now in St. Louis, in the commission busi-

ness; Charles F., a farmer in this township; Mary and Edward T. died in St. Louis; John, whose name heads this narrative; Iris C., in Howard Co., Iowa; Eleanor, died in Winnebago Co., Ill. The father of the above died April 25, 1852, while away from home in quest of stock. His wife survived him until July 25, 1874. Mr. Chamberlain was one of the staunch and reliable citizens of the county. Just and upright in his dealings with his fellow-men; was liberal in contributions to the church; was a charter member of the Universalist Church at Westfield Center. In his political belief, he was a Democrat. John, after attaining his major years, continued to remain upon the farm until his 28th year, when he was united in wedlock Oct. 20, 1856, to Mary Devereaux, who was born July 3, 1830, in Oswego Co., N. Y. She was a daughter of John and Mehitabel (Craw) Devereaux, to whom were born the numerous family of fifteen children, seven brothers and eight sisters. The family emigrated to Erie Co., Penn., in 1832, where they remained. Mrs. Chamberlain came out in 1854. To Mr. and Mrs. Chamberlain have been born three children—Melville, Ermina and Bradley. In 1856, bought 100 acres, now owned by Mr. Wheeler; finally traded farms with Mr. Williams in order to get his land in one body. He now has 285 acres of choice farming land. Is among the self-made men of the township, and is now actively engaged in farming and stock-raising, making his business a success.

C. F. CHAMBERLAIN, farmer; P. O. Chippewa Lake. The proprietor of "Lake View Farm" was born Dec. 12, 1822, in Massachusetts, the third of a family of seven children born to his parents, Abraham and Mary (Clark) Chamberlain. Mr. C., the father of our subject, was Captain of the militia before he emigrated West, which gave him the title which he afterward bore. His first location was in the southern part of Westfield, where he made some improvements on the Shoak and Hulbert farms, making his permanent location in 1834. Charles F. was a lad of 11 when his parents came West. What schooling he received after his arrival here was by walking from home to the log schoolhouse south of La Fayette Center, or to the school in Westfield Center; his course was marked by blazed trees. He remained with his parents until past his majority. Dec. 29, 1844, he was married to Lucinda





King, born Nov. 20, 1824, in Wayne Co., N. Y. She was the second of four children whose parents were Samuel and Deborah (Clark) King; he was born in 1790, in Sullivan Co., she in Orange Co., N. Y. They came West in 1837, locating in Westfield, on the Baur farm, where he lived three years, then moving to this township; bought land now owned by Jemima Averill, but finally making his permanent residence where our subject resides, which farm was taken up by Joseph Reynolds, Jr. Since 1844, Mr. Chamberlain has been a resident of this farm. Mrs. C. has but one brother living, Charles E., now in Battle Creek, Mich., they being the sole survivors of the family. Mr. King (her father) was for forty years a firm believer in universal salvation, and when he approached death's door, he was ready and willing to go. Mr. Chamberlain has 185 acres in this township and 100 in Westfield, making 285 in all, which ranks with any in the township for quality and location. His farm is adjoining that beautiful sheet of water known as Chippewa Lake. Mr. Chamberlain has the following children: Mary J., the wife of Albert Rice; Orrin E., Frank D., Laura E., Charles T. and Merton at home. Since 1878, Mr. C. has been engaged in the onion culture, and has made that production a success. His residence and buildings are well located, having a commanding view of lake scenery. Both he and wife are adherents of the same religious tenets as their parents.

W. A. COTNER, farmer and trader; was born July 21, 1841, in Jefferson Co., Ohio; the sixth child of Jacob and Nancy (Guinea) Cotner; he was born in Washington Co., Penn., in June, 1797; his father's name was Jacob, who was also a son of Jacob, who was a locksmith, and came from Virginia. The mother of our subject was born in Washington Co. in 1798; she was a daughter of Joseph and Margaret (Bradford) Guinea. The Cotner family emigrated West in 1834, locating in Jefferson Co., where they lived sixteen years, and cleared up a farm, and came to the eastern part of this township in 1852 and purchased 120 acres of land of Benjamin Shaw; here they have remained until the present, both of the parents yet living. The Cotner family are noted for their longevity. Both Mr. and Mrs. Cotner joined the Presbyterian Church at an early age. Of their family living are Jonathan, a bach-

elor, residing with his parents; Andrew, in Fairfield Co.; Bradford, in Hardin Co.; W. A. and Eli, in this township. W. A. was married one Christmas Day to Emeline White, born in Wayne Township, Wayne Co.; daughter of William and Julia (Fetterman) White; she was born in Northumberland Co., Penn., in February, 1821; daughter of Peter Fetterman. To them were born four children—Emeline, the wife of W. A.; Malissa, Mrs. Whitney; Frances, Mrs. Eli Cotner. After Mr. Cotner was married, he moved to Montville, afterward to Westfield, remaining nine years, locating on the farm he now owns in 1876. Of six children born, but two are living—Arthur P. and Platt A.; the others died young. Mr. Cotner has a farm of 98 acres. For several years past, he has been engaged in stock trading; is a good judge and a successful dealer.

A. B. DEAN, farmer; P. O. Lodi. This gentleman is a descendant of David Dean, whose birthplace was Scotland; from him descended David, the grandfather of our subject, whose son was also named David; the father of our subject was born Aug. 31, 1797, in Bennington Co., Vt., and emigrated to this State in 1824, locating in Portage County, where our subject was born May 25, 1831; second of a family of three, whose names are Parnelia E., wife of Sherman B. Rogers, of Harrisville Township, and Horace, of Wilson Co., Kan. The father of our subject was a shoemaker, which trade he followed in his earlier years; but, later in life, engaged in farming, at which his sons were raised. June 25, 1854, he was married to Julia P. Loomis, who was born March 4, 1835, in Ashtabula County, this State, whose parents were Russell S. and Harmony (Fobes) Loomis, the former was born in South Windsor, Conn., July 8, 1796; the latter in Norwich, Hampshire Co., Mass., Sept. 28, 1803. To them were born nine children, of whom there are living Octavia, Callista, Elizabeth, Milton, and Fidelia, the wife of Horace Dean, now in Wilson Co., Kan., with Milton, the youngest being Julia Ann. The mother died June 14, 1874, the father Nov. 30, 1879. The mother of our subject, before her marriage, was Sophia Brown, who was born in Shalersville Township, Portage Co., September, 1811, daughter of Ephraim Brown. Soon after the marriage of A. B. he located in this county, living about two years in Harrisville Township, and came to this



township in 1856, where he has since resided; his farm consists of 215 acres, located in the southwest part of the township, a portion of it extending into Westfield Township. Since his occupation of the premises, he has improved the general appearance of the farm, as well as of the house and surroundings, which now present an air of thrift, neatness and comfort. The Dean family are all staunch Republicans. His father was a Whig, and, at the dissolution of that party, became a Republican. Mr. Dean has served as Township Trustee, and is in that office. Three children have been born to him—Ida M., David H. and Dora. Ida was the pride of her parents, had just emerged into lovely womanhood, and was upon the eve of her graduation at Lodi Academy, when she sickened and died, Oct. 17, 1873; she was a bright, intelligent lady, beloved by all who knew her, and her death fell heavily upon the hearts of her parents.

A. FRETZ, farmer; P. O. Chippewa Lake; was born Aug. 8, 1813, in Bucks Co., Penn., he being the eldest of a family of three children born to Joseph and Mary (Souder) Fretz. Both were natives of Bucks Co. Joseph Fretz was a son of Jacob, whose ancestors were from Germany, as were also the Souders. Our subject was reared upon a farm until 16 years of age, when he went to learn the carpenter's trade. In February, 1836, he was married to Elizabeth Rahn, who was born in Montgomery Co. March 7, 1818, of a family of nine children—five brothers and four sisters—all of whom attained their majority. Their parents were George and Magdaline (Hunsicker) Rahn. After Mr. Fretz was married, he carried on the cabinet-maker's business for four years, after which he resumed his trade. In the spring of 1848, he came West to Coshocton Co., this State, remaining a short time, then moved to Wadsworth, where he lived two years, coming to this township in the spring of 1851, purchasing 54½ acres of land, which was unimproved, with the exception of 3 acres. No buildings of any kind adorned the premises. Until within four years past, Mr. Fretz has been engaged in contracting and building. His wife and boys carried on the farm in the meantime. Eleven children have been born to them, nine living, viz., Augustus, now of Elkhart, Ind.; Amanda, now the wife of Phineas Howe, of this township; Emeline, now Mrs. Joseph Martin, in Seville; Samuel, in La Fayette; Elizabeth,

now Mrs. A. Pink, of Medina; Levi, in Guilford Township; Joseph, telegraph operator on the Tuscarawas Valley Railroad; Myra, now Mrs. Martin Frazier, of Westfield; and Ella, yet at home. Mrs. Fretz's father died in 1878, in his 90th year; his wife died in 1871. They were members of the Lutheran Church. Mr. Fretz's father died in 1823; he and wife were members of the Mennonite Church. Both Mr. Fretz and wife are members of the United Brethren Church.

DANIEL E. FOOTE, farmer; P. O. Medina; born March 30, 1818, in Delaware Co., N. Y.; eight children composed the family, five brothers and three sisters, all of whom lived to see the years of man and womanhood. The parents of the above were William and Maria (Bailey) Foote; he was born in 1788, in Connecticut, near Newtown; his father was Peter Foote, who was a son of Abraham, whose parents came from Europe. Some of the relatives on his mother's side are of French extraction. The parents of Maria Bailey were Joshua and Olive (Glover) B., all of whom were natives of Connecticut. Peter, the grandfather of our subject, moved with his family to New York in 1804, making the trip carrying his effects and family in an ox-cart. To him were born William, Luther, Henry, Sherman, Jerusha, Mary A. and Sallie. All of the sons became husbandmen with the exception of Luther, who was a mechanic. Daniel continued with his parents until his manhood, having obtained a liberal common school education. He was employed as teacher for a time, teaching during the winter season, and spending the summer on the farm. June 7, 1842, he formed a matrimonial alliance with Betsey A. Griffin, who was a native of Delaware Co., N. Y., daughter of Samuel and Fannie (Beers) Griffin; his parents were Heth and Julia (Baldwin) Griffin. The father of our subject was drafted in the war of 1812, and sent Elisha Ingraham instead. Daniel E. after his marriage, began farming on land he had purchased, upon which he continued until 1857, when he came West and selected a place, but, his wife dying April 22, same year, his plans were, for the time, discontinued. She left one child—Griffin S. In the spring of 1858, he moved to his place of selection, returning in December of the same year, and married Sarah A. Gould; the winter following, Feb. 23, 1859, was the time their





nuptials were celebrated; she was born March 9, 1827, in Delaware Co., and was a daughter of Cilick and Sallie (Blish) Gould, who is a cousin to Jay Gould, both natives of New York State. Their ancestors were natives of Connecticut. Returning to his farm in Lorain Co. that spring, he remained on the same until 1865, when he came to the farm he now owns, in the spring of the same year, where he purchased 163 acres, which was first settled by one Brooks, which is situated two and one-fourth miles from Medina. Since his ownership, he has greatly improved the appearance of the farm, having erected an excellent house, and other substantial buildings on the premises. Farming has employed his time since his advent to the place. Since the spring of 1879, he has been conducting a cheese-factory, and though now but two years in operation, yet from the success that has crowned its early beginning, it seems destined to become one of the lucrative and substantial manufacturing interests of this township. Both Mr. and Mrs. Foote are members of the Episcopal Church at Medina, having been identified with that denomination for the last thirty-five years. To them have been born two sons—William C. and Fayette D.

LORENZO HYATT, farmer; P. O. Lodi; was born July 29, 1823, in Rodman Township, Jefferson Co., N. Y., was the oldest son of Aaron and Prudence (Ross) Hyatt, to whom were born eight children, three sons and five daughters; of those living, are Alonzo, now of Chatham; Sarah, Mrs. Winters, Rosaltha, Mrs. James Crouch, Gilbert, settled in Wisconsin, and went out in the late rebellion as soldier in the 48th Wis. V. I. and died ere his return. The father of Lorenzo, was born near Hoosick Falls, in Rensselaer Co., N. Y., in December, about the year 1790; was a son of Roger Hyatt, who trace their ancestry to English stock. The Ross family claim their ancestry as descended from Scotland. John Ross was the grandfather of Lorenzo on his mother's side, whose father was also named John. Lorenzo emigrated West with his parents in 1832, locating in Westfield Township, his father purchasing 40 acres of land. Lorenzo remained with his father until he was 23 years of age, then went to Erie Co., Penn., where he worked in the lumber business until his union with Sarah Mershon, which took place Sept. 17,

1850. She was born Nov. 19, 1832, in Springfield Township, Erie Co. Penn.; her parents were Aaron and Sarah (Linsey) Mershon, both were natives of Pennsylvania, he was born in Erie Co., she in Crawford. After Mr. Hyatt was married he was not oppressed with an over flush of coin or of this world's goods and for several years made several changes, renting land and shifting about wherever circumstances seemed to promise the most satisfactory financial returns. In April, 1859, he purchased 50 acres, where he now resides, and has since been a resident on the same—has since added 14 acres and has a comfortable and pleasant home, in which to spend the eve of his life; is a man that has a great desire for good literature, and is one of the greatest readers in the neighborhood. Of three children born him, but two are living. Gilbert was the eldest, now deceased; Carrie Inez and Frank are the surviving ones. Mrs. Hyatt's mother yet resides in Erie Co., Penn., her father deceased in April 1848. Mr. Hyatt has been a man of good health, and of industrious habits, and accumulated what he has by an observance of the laws of economy and rugged industry, having devoted his life to agricultural pursuits, and has the esteem and commendation of his neighbors and friends, as an excellent citizen and accommodating neighbor; he is a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and an ardent Republican.

ELI HOUSE, farmer; P. O. Whittlesey; was born in Jefferson Co., Ohio, Sept 30, 1820; son of John and Sarah House; the former born in 1777, in Chester Co., Penn., the latter born the same year in York Co., Penn. The House family are originally from the "Fatherland," and, after coming to Pennsylvania, were among the followers of William Penn. John House was a soldier of the war of 1812; he had moved West from Pennsylvania before the war began, and located on land he had previously purchased. The war breaking out, he cast his fortunes into that struggle, and returned to his land after the war; but, in the meantime, the currency had depreciated, and, being in debt, he had a hard time to weather it through. He was a man of great industry, a carpenter by trade, which he followed for several years, and built many buildings which are yet standing in that locality. He owned 200 acres of land, which he retained until his death, Dec. 3, 1833.



At the time of his death, he was preparing to build a large brick house on his own premises. Both he and his wife were consistent members of the M. E. Church. Her death occurred in May, 1853. To them were born eight children, but five of whom are now living—Eleazer, in Mason Co., Ill.; Elizabeth, now Mrs. U. Nichols, in the same county; Mary, wife of W. Nichols, in the same place; Catharine, Mrs. Charles Crocker, now in Montville; Eli, in this township. Joseph, his brother, settled in this township, but died in 1877, leaving two sons and four daughters. Eli remained with his father until 27 years of age. Dec. 16, 1846, he was married to Rebecca Smith, who was born Feb. 20, 1824, in Allegheny Co., Penn., daughter of Jacob and Rebecca (Grover) Smith; he was a native of Chester Co., Penn.; he was a son of Andrew Smith. The Groveses are of French extraction; Rebecca's grandparents came from France. After Mr. House was married, he remained on the home farm and, having bought out the heirs, he continued to farm until the fall of 1852, when he moved to this township and purchased 185 acres of land, to which he has since added, until now he owns 400 acres. Stock-raising and farming has been his business since he settled here: he has been engaged quite extensively in the dairy business, running fifty cows. Seven children have been born to him, but five now living—John W., George W., Mary E., Lorinda J. and Sarah, wife of James Bachtell, of York Township. Mr. House is one of the most prominent farmers in the township. He and wife are members of the M. E. Church.

JESSE HARRINGTON, retired farmer; P. O. Medina. The above gentleman was born Dec. 27, 1809, in the town of Arlington, Bennington Co., Vt., is the fifth of a family of twelve children who were born to Henry and Sarah (Manchester) Harrington. Henry was born February, 1770, son of Henry, born 1730, in Rhode Island. He was a son of Job, whose father was likewise named Job, who was born 1645, in Roxbury, Mass. The wife of Job second was Anna Spencer. The father of Job, 1st, was drowned in Boston Harbor. Henry Harrington, the grandfather of Jesse, was a Captain, and held his commission under the crown. After the war of the Revolution broke out, he took up arms against the British. Jesse's great-grandfather on his mother's side was

drafted in the British army, from North-eastern New York, and died at Ft. Edward. The prevalent religion of the Harringtons has been of the Baptist order; many of them, however, married into Quaker families. Jesse's father was a carpenter by trade. After his marriage, engaged in farming, and remained in the same until his death. Spring of 1839, Jesse was married to Lydia Burnett. She was born in Bennington Co., Vt., in 1814, daughter of Job and Lucy Burnett, who were of Scotch descent. Mr. Harrington emigrated West in 1844, locating in this township, where he now resides, purchasing 109 acres, at \$10 per acre, of his brother, Dr. Rowe owning it before him (his brother). With the exception of a little "slashing," there were no other improvements. Mr. Harrington built the first cabin, which he lived in eight years, when he moved into the house he now occupies. Of five children born him, one is now living—Henry B., who married Mary Hall. They have one child—Mabel. Elias died 1876. He was a Superintendent on the Valley R. R. His wife was Sarah Smith. They had one child—Sapphira, called "Gay." Stephen J. enlisted in the war; went out first in the three months' service, in Co. H, 8th O. V. I.; served his time, came home, stayed one year, then re-enlisted in Co. I, 103d O. V. I., and, after serving in many battles, such as Stone River, Stogol's Ferry, Rhea Town, Blue Springs, Leesburg, and in seventeen days' fight between Holston and Loudon Rivers. He was taken prisoner in January, 1864, and taken to Belle Isle, where he was confined until his death, which occurred June 28, 1864, of bronchitis, after being exposed a long time in the rain and wet without shelter or proper clothing. The first two soldiers killed at the battle of Lexington were Caleb and John Harrington, who were sons of Henry Harrington. Jesse's father was a Democrat, but, after Jackson's administration, he was a Whig. Mr. Jesse Harrington is a staunch Republican, and one of the solid and substantial farmers in the neighborhood. Has 140 acres in this township, and 62 in Medina, and is quite a successful bee farmer. Has had but little sickness in his family. Since he began keeping house, \$10 would pay his entire doctor bill. He is a man of powerful memory, retaining in his mind events and dates with astonishing exactness. He is now living in the quiet of his home, having





given over the culture and management of his farm to Henry B., who resides with him.

R. B. HART, farmer; P. O. Medina; was born June 30, 1846, in Monroe Co., N. Y., ninth of a family of ten children born to George and Caroline (Sanford) Hart. The father was born Sept. 10, 1792, in Massachusetts; the mother in Vermont, March 6, 1805. His father, George Hart, was a farmer, which vocation was taught his son George, who in turn, set the example to his son Romain, who, before attaining his majority, responded to the call for volunteers in the late war, and enlisted July 27, 1862, for three years, in Co. B, 108th N. Y. V. I., Sept. 17, at the battle of Antietam; was wounded three times, and did not leave the field or cease fighting, until he received his third wound; his injuries were of such a nature as to entitle him to a discharge, which he received, and returned home. Upon his recovery, he returned to the scene of conflict, and after driving team for nearly five months in the Cumberland department, re-enlisted in Co. H, 22d N. Y. V. C., receiving the rank of Sergeant, and, after serving one year, the regiment was placed on detached service, in charge of a portion of the ambulance train. During his service with the cavalry, he met with a thrilling experience, by the explosion of an ammunition wagon, which was in close proximity, throwing him several rods, and, were it not for his landing in a pond of water, the fall would have undoubtedly killed him. By careful treatment in hospital, he was again restored to duty, and served until after the termination of the war, receiving his discharge Aug. 8, 1865. Returning home to New York, he attended school that winter, and in the spring of 1866, came West, first to Illinois, then to this county, to Spencer Township, where he was married Nov. 3, same year, to Matilda G. Inman, born 29th October, 1847, in Spencer Township. Her parents are Stephen and Sophronia (Robbins) Hart. He was born in New Jersey, and came West about the year 1831. For several years, Mr. Hart was engaged in conducting a cheese manufactory in Spencer. Since that time, he has been engaged in farming pursuits. February, 1875, he located in the northwestern part of this township, having a farm of 82 acres, formerly owned by Anson Randall. The fruits of his union have been five children, who are Bertha M., Mary A., Gracia A., Melva L. and Mabel S.

ROBERT LOWE, farmer and horse dealer; P. O. Whittlesey; is a son of William Lowe, who was born in August, 1799, in Skine, Aberdeenshire, Scotland; son of John Lowe. William Lowe was married to June Beaton, who was born in the same shire Sept. 5, 1805, daughter of Peter Beaton, whose great-grandfather was Lord Beaton, of historic fame. Col. Beaton was his great-grandfather, and participated in the battle of Kaladon, called by some Culloden. Mrs. Lowe's mother's name prior to her marriage was Margaret Cooper, who was a daughter of William. Gen. Arthur Burnett was her father's uncle. Peter Beaton was a Forrester, and, upon his side of the family, flowed as good blood as Bonny Scotland produced. William Lowe and family emigrated to this country in 1854, first locating in Homer Township, where his brother, Skeine Lowe, had located several years previous, being one among the early settlers in that township. Mr. Lowe did not remain in Homer long, ere he located permanently in this township, and remained until his death, which occurred in April, 1879. His wife yet survives him. Both were members of the old Scotch Church. To them were born a family of thirteen children, twelve of the number came to maturity. Five of the Lowe brothers were volunteers in the late war; James, in Co. K, 8th O. V. I., was killed at the battle of Antietam; Alexander died at Nashville; was a member of Co. B, 124th O. V. I.; Robert served two years in the same regiment and company; George was a member of the O. N. G.; John enlisted, and was afterward discharged; Robert was married, May 2, 1866, to Mary Parks, who was born Dec. 15, 1847, in Homer Township, daughter of Joseph and Hannah (Kelly) Parks. He was a son of David Parks. Her father's name was Ezra Kelly. Both families were natives of New York State. For several years past, Robert Lowe has been engaged as a horse-dealer, buying and selling and fitting and preparing for the market, and is a shrewd and successful trader. In 1869, he purchased the farm he now owns, consisting of 40 acres, formerly owned by Mr. Needham. The Lowes are all strongly Republican.

T. S. MARTIN, farmer and agent; P. O. Medina; is the fourth child born to John and Nancy (Vaughn) Martin. Thomas was born June 13, 1826, in Washington Co., Penn. John Martin, the father of our subject, was left an



orphan at an early age, and but little is known of the family back of himself. The grandfather of Mr. Martin on his mother's side was Joseph, and was a native of New Jersey. The Martins are of Irish descent. John Martin and family came West in 1831, locating in Jefferson Co., Ohio, where he purchased 160 acres of land, which was but partially improved. In 1841, he moved to this township, where he lived until his death. Thomas S., at the age of 22, was married to Mahala J. Lance, born June 16, 1826, in Milton Township, Wayne Co., Ohio. Their marriage took place Sept. 28, 1848. Her parents were William and Clara (Lee) Lance. He was born in Washington Co., Penn., Feb. 14, 1788; his wife born May 3, 1799. William was a son of Christopher Lance. Mrs. Martin's grandfather on her mother's side was John Lee. His son, William, was a teamster in the war of 1812. The family were among the early arrivals in Wayne Co. Mrs. Martin's father died March 23, 1861; mother, Jan. 28, 1846. Mr. Lance was a Deacon in Presbyterian Church, and always took an active part in church matters; a man of good information and a worthy citizen. After Mr. Martin's marriage, he resided a short time in Homer Township. In 1851, he moved to this township and purchased 60 acres of land where he now resides, situated in the east side of the township. Has now 82 acres. About the year 1865, he began work for the Domestic Sewing Machine Co., and has since been in their employ the greater part of the time, and is one of the best agents in the employ of the company. Of his children living are Clara A., Mrs. W. Pease, of Washington Co., Penn.; James W., in Medina Co., in same business as father; Harriet E., Mrs. I. W. Strong, of Guilford; William J., in La Fayette Center; Frank M., married and in Chatham Township; Violet L., Mrs. Rufus L. Gechman, in Poe, Montville; Allen W., at home. For thirty years, Mr. Martin has been a member of the Congregational Church, and is recognized as one of the standard men in the township.

REV. WILLIAM MOODY, farmer; P. O. Whittlesey; born Aug. 29, 1810, in Bogaire Township, Coos Co., N. H.; the eldest of a family of nine children, seven of whom came to the years of responsibility; but two are now living—our subject and Ebenezer S., now of Chatham Township. Of those who came West

and became members of families, were Abigail, who married Albert Boynton, of Harrisville Township; to them were born four sons—E. M. Boynton being one of the number, who is the inventor and patentee of the Lightning Saw. George first settled in Virginia, afterward in Iowa; he was a minister of the Christian Church for many years; his children were Lewis, Ida, Harvey, Watson and ——. Daniel settled in Chatham, finally in Michigan, where he died, leaving one son—Watson Moody. Charles came to Ohio, afterward went to California, and never was heard from since. Lucy moved to Michigan; was the wife of Alonzo Hildreth, to whom were born four sons and one daughter. All of the above were born to Ebenezer and Lucy (Wood) Moody. He was born in 1783, in Newbury, Mass., thirty miles from Boston. The Moody family originated (according to tradition) from three brothers who left England for America soon after the establishment of the Plymouth Colony. D. L. Moody, the evangelist, being one of the branch. The father of our subject was a shoemaker by occupation, which vocation was learned by William, who, at the age of 18, bought his time for \$75, and began business on his own responsibility. In 1833, the family came West, located in Wadsworth Township, and, in 1835, settled permanently in Chatham Township, where the paternal head died September, 1850; that of his wife in 1864, while in Michigan. When William first came to this State, he carried on the boot and shoe business for a time in Dover, near Cleveland; subsequently took a contract of building turnpike in Cleveland, where he worked three summers; cut and logged about twenty acres from St. Clair street, next the lake, digging many of the trees out by the roots. At this time the woodland extended within one and a half miles of the city. After leaving Cleveland, he came to La Fayette Township, and was for some time engaged in administering to the spiritual wants of the people, expounding the Gospel from Alexander Campbell's standpoint, and, although he encountered a great deal of opposition, yet was successful in awakening a good deal of interest in the minds of the people, several of whom obeyed the Gospel, and, through his instrumentality, the church took root and a society was soon organized, and since grown to its present dimensions. His first purchase of land was in





Chatham Township, in 1837, where he purchased 50 acres, afterward adding to the same until he had 118 acres, which he cleared up. Aug. 29, 1838, he was joined in wedlock to Maria Ross, who was born in Windsor Co., Vt., Nov. 13, 1817, the eldest of a family of two children who were born to Daniel and Keziah (Ainsworth) Ross, who were natives of Vermont, and emigrated to this county in 1834. Mrs. Moody's brother Jerry Ross, is a resident of Montcalm Co., Mich. Mr. Moody remained on his farm in Chatham until 1871, when he purchased the farm he now owns, consisting of 124½ acres, of Isaac Blair, who was its former owner and pioneer. Of seven children born him, all grew up. Silas, now in Gratiot Co., Pine Tree Township, Mich., who is one of the prominent farmers in that locality, having 300 acres. Solon and George lost their lives in the late war; both were members of Co. B, 42d O. V. I., and were valiant and true soldiers. Mary, in Michigan, the wife of Mr. Charles Judson, of Ottawa Co. Harriet, at home. Henry, married, and residing near his father's. John, a teacher, unmarried and at home. At the age of 19, our subject was converted, and joined the Baptist Church, remaining in this connection until he was 24, when his views submitted to a change, and, joining the Disciples' standard, has since that time preached the truth as understood by him, as revealed by the words of Holy Writ. Although giving his attention to farming, yet he has in the meantime preached a great deal, and, for the most part, received but small compensation therefor. Has been an active worker in the Master's cause, and has been instrumental in doing much good in the church, and through his instrumentality many souls have been brought from darkness to light.

ANDREW MARTIN, farmer; P. O. Chipewewa Lake; was born Jan. 9, 1824, in Washington, Penn., and emigrated West with his parents in 1841, locating in the eastern part of this township, where he remained (making his father's house his home) until July 1, 1852, when he was married to Maria McIntire, who was born Oct. 28, 1825, in Smithville, Wayne Co., being the ninth child of a family of ten, seven girls and three sons; of those living—Mary, Mrs. John Vanarsdale; Jane, Mrs. John Martin; Rebecca, Mrs. James Wilson; Ann, Mrs. Robert Martin; Nancy, Mrs. James Col-

lier; Lydia, unmarried; all of the above were born to Hugh and Lydia (Thomas) McIntire. He was born in or near Canada; his parents died when he was a lad of 4 years, and he was then taken to Washington, Penn., where he lived until he came West, which was about the year 1821, and located in Wayne Co., near Smithville, where the family settled in the woods; lived for some time in the wagon; they came out before a suitable shelter could be erected for their reception. Here, for many years, under many discouraging surroundings, the family were raised to maturity. The parents died as follows: He, Jan. 17, 1854, aged 69 years and 9 months; she, Oct. 16, 1854, aged 67 years and 5 months. They lived highly respected in the community, both as citizens and efficient members and workers in the church, he being for many years Deacon of the Presbyterian Church. After the marriage of our subject, he located in Canaan Township, Wayne Co.; finally located in this township in 1857, where he has since been a resident. Of his father's family, there were seven children, he being the third, all of whom settled in this township. His parents were John and Agnes (Vaughn) Martin. He was born in New Jersey, and, after his settlement here, lived a constant resident until his death, which occurred July 21, 1856, aged 62 years and 9 months; her decease was April 9, 1873. Mr. Martin's farm consists of 50 acres of good land, well improved, and he is in good, comfortable circumstances as regards this world's goods. While he has never been blessed with any offspring of his own, yet he has raised one boy to manhood—Stephen Nickerson, who is now a teacher in the township; have one adopted daughter—Henrietta. He and wife are members of the United Brethren Church. Mrs. Martin's grandfather was Liverton Thomas. Mrs. Martin's sister Ann settled in Stark Co.; Rebecca, in Orville, Wayne Co., Ohio; Nancy, in Wooster; Mary, in Holmes Co., Ohio; Jane, in Wayne Co., Ohio.

JOHN MAYTHAM, farmer; P. O. Whittlesey; first beheld the light of day April 25, 1813, in Barham Parish, Kent Co., England. He was the youngest son born to his parents, who were Edward and Elizabeth (Hopkins) Maytham. The grandfather of our subject was George Maytham, to whom were born six sons, viz.: George, Thomas, Daniel, Edward, James



and John. Their father was killed by his *own* countrymen while conveying prisoners from Spain to England, being fired into by a British man-of-war, thinking them to be enemies. In 1832, at the age of 19, he bade farewell to the land of his fathers, and, in order to better his condition, sailed for America, the trip occupying eight weeks, arriving the season that the cholera was raging in this country. From New York he went to Essex Co., Mass., where he lived five years, and drifted West to Cleveland, where he lived about four years. His occupation was that of a landscape gardener, and assisted in planting the first trees that now grace and adorn Euclid Avenue. Jan. 1, 1837, he became the husband of Catherine Guckian, who was born November, 1820, in the Parish Kiltart, Leitrim Co., Ireland, whose parents were Charles and Nancy (McDonald) Guckian. The McDonalds were natives of "Bonnie" Scotland. In 1840, Mr. Maytham and wife came to this township, locating where they now reside, he having some years previous purchased the land at \$5.00 per acre. Coming as they did from the busy hum of business and city life to this place, to make the "woods" their future home, was not enjoyable at first, particularly to Mrs. Maytham; the contrast between the two places was as wide as two extremes could well be. No road near at hand, and the neighbors few and scattering. Time rolled on; neighbors multiplied, and the wilderness appearance of the place was transformed to cultivated fields, and, after years of hard labor, assisted by his worthy helpmeet, they have secured to themselves a good home and a sufficiency of this world's goods to enable them to spend the remainder of their days in the enjoyment of the fruits of their severe toil and many years of self-denial. Their union has been crowned with a goodly number of representatives, fifteen in all; ten of the number attained the years of responsibility. Of those now living are Ann, now residing in Homer, the wife of Francis Rolo; Thomas, William and Edward, in Buffalo; Mary, Mrs. John House, Mrs. Asa Blakeslee and Charles, of this township; George died in Kansas, buried with the honors of Knights Templarhood; Thomas is in the marine business, at Buffalo, owning and conducting a number of vessels. Mrs. Blakeslee's husband died Aug. 6, 1880; he was a native of Connecticut, and for twenty-five years was a resident of Blackstone, Livingston

Co., Ill.; a farmer and prominent business man at that place, and a man possessed of *marked* intellectual abilities. Mrs. Blakeslee and father are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

GEORGE A. McCABE, farmer; P. O. Chippewa Lake; was born in Guilford Township, Jan. 4, 1839; is the eldest of a family of ten children, whose parents were James and A. (Houghton) McCabe. The grandfather of George was a native of the Emerald Isle, and came to this State many years ago, locating in Guilford Township, where he died, as did his son James, in 1878, June 13; his wife died May 3, 1855. George was raised to hard labor, and spent his minority at home with his parents, who afforded him the advantages of the common school, and, when he attained his early manhood, was made thoroughly acquainted with the use of agricultural implements. After attaining his major years, he began to shift for himself. Dec. 24, 1862, he became the lawful protector of Miss Mary Dicky; she was born Dec. 12, 1841, in Westfield Township; her parents were Samuel and Harriet H. Dicky, who were among the early settlers in that township. Subsequently, after the marriage of G. A., they resided two years in Westfield, and moved to this township in 1864, and has a farm of 93 acres, which is well improved and favorably located at Lake Station, and close to Chippewa Lake. Mr. McCabe is among the enterprising young farmers in the township, and will probably, in time, become one of the opulent agriculturists in the county. To him have been born four children—William A., Hattie A., John D. and George.

EARL MOULTON, shoe store, Whitlesey; is one of the pioneers and worthy representatives of this township. His place of birth was in Vermont State, Randolph Township, Orange Co.; here he first beheld the light Sept. 29, 1800. His father's name was William, who lost his life at sea when our subject was about 1 year old. He was a native of Massachusetts, as was his wife Lucia Miles; her father was Timothy Miles, who purchased 1,900 acres of land in Canada, and gave his daughter 100 acres, 50 of which she intended for her son Earl; but her father became involved, by going surety, and lost all. In 1816, Earl, in company with his mother and step-father, came West to Richfield Township, Summit Co. Soon after our subject went to Wayne Co., and began





work clearing land; July 4, 1822, married Esther Stanley, born Oct. 22, 1803, in Broome Co., N. Y., daughter of Alexander and Nabbie Stanley; she came West with her parents in 1813, who first located in Trumbull Co. Ohio. Mr. Moulton settled on a section of school land in Canaan Township, and cut the first stick in Canaan Center; he remained here until April 1834, when he came to this township and took up 50 acres in the woods, where he built him a cabin, and lived on this tract until 1840, and, with the exception of six years spent in Michigan, has been a resident of the county, and quite prominently identified with its interests; in the fall of 1844, was elected to the State Legislature, and was re-elected; was first elected Justice of the Peace in 1854, and served until his departure for Michigan; upon his return was re-elected, and is now the present incumbent of the office; during President Taylor's administration was commissioned Postmaster, being the first in the township, and during the early settlement of the township served as Township Clerk and Trustee several years, and, in all the various offices of trust that have been placed upon him, he has ever sustained the dignity and character of an upright man and Christian gentleman. His wife died leaving seven children, one son and six daughters; Olivia E., now in Michigan; Lucia, Mrs. George E. Miller, of this township, also Louisa A., the wife of Alfred Bowman; William E., who married Eliza Waltz, is also a resident of this township; Eliza M., Mrs. John W. Bowman, and Cynthia M., who resides with her father. Mr. Moulton has never been a man that has aspired to become wealthy in this world's goods, seeking rather to secure treasures in that land beyond the River of Death. For many years past he has been a member of the Christian Church at this place, being one of its original members, and a staunch Republican.

G. A. MACK, farmer; P. O. Whittlesey; was born February, 1806, in Canandaigua Township, Ontario Co., N. Y., the only child of his parents, Gurdon and Mary (Gillet) Mack. He was born about the year 1781 near Hartford, Conn., a son of Gurdon Mack, whose parents were of Scotch-Irish nationality. The Gillets are of Yankee extraction, and were all natives of Connecticut, so far as known. Immediately after the marriage of our subject's parents, they re-

moved to the Empire State, where Mr. Mack died when our subject was 6 months old. Subsequently, his mother married Mr. Hickox, with whom our subject lived until his manhood. Gurdon A.'s father was a shoemaker by trade, but was engaged in farming also, which he carried on in conjunction with his trade. The hard labor he bestowed in clearing up his farm and working at his trade at night was too excessive for him, and brought him to an early and premature grave. Our subject was raised to farming pursuits, but, taking naturally to tools, he easily learned the carpenter's trade, which he followed for several years; worked at wood-turning, and also did millwright work. Feb. 8, 1829, he was married to Eliza Rusal, who was born in Bloomfield Township, Ontario Co., N. Y., in 1809. He remained in New York until 1848, when he came West to this county, locating at Westfield Center. Prior to his coming, he built a large saw-mill in the pineries in Steuben Co. Soon after his arrival at Westfield, he built a sash and blind factory at the Center, which he carried on until 1855, when he sold out to G. C. Wright, and moved to his present place of residence, situated at La Fayette Center, where he has since resided and been engaged in farming. Mr. Mack has been unfortunate, having buried two wives. His first wife died Aug. 10, 1842, leaving five small children—William A., Henry, Frances, Sarah M. and Miles. April 24, 1844, he was married to Florinda Hickox. She died in March, 1870, leaving no issue. She was beloved by her step-children, who loved her and lamented her demise. His present wife was Mrs. Delia Richards, who was born in Montville Township Aug. 15, 1835. She was a daughter of James and Lavina (Welton) Reynolds, who were born, respectively in Massachusetts and Connecticut, and were married in New York, and emigrated West to this county when the country was new. To them were born seven children, five brothers and two sisters. Six of the number attained maturity. Her father died in 1853; her mother is yet a resident of Montville. The children living are James, Hiram (who resides in Granger), Clark (in Chatham) and Sallie (now Mrs. H. Fokett, of this township). Mrs. Mack was married to her first husband May 6, 1858, whose name was Adam Richards, whose birthplace was Richland Co., Ohio, born in 1833. He died Feb. 9, 1862, leaving two children—



Lavina M. and Siegel D. Mr. Mack has raised a family, who revere the memory of their paternal ancestor, and are all married and doing business on their own account. William A. is the inventor of the Domestic Sewing Machine, and resides at Norwalk; Henry is in Painesville; Sarah M. (Mrs. N. Newman), of Norwalk; Frances and Miles, in Cleveland, partners in the sewing-machine business. For over half a century, Mr. Mack has been a soldier of the cross, and has been an efficient and zealous worker in his Master's vineyard, and has endeavored to live the life of a consistent Christian. Has acted for the last forty years as Class-leader, Steward and Trustee of the M. E. Church, of which he has been a member. In political matters, he has never taken an active part, but has always been a true Republican.

DUNCAN NAIRN, farmer; P. O. Whittlesey; was born in Scotland in 1810, in Morrowshire, the youngest of a family of eleven children, all of whom grew to the years of responsibility. His parents were William and Isabella (McDonald) Nairn. The grandfather of our subject was John. William Nairn was a farmer, and raised his boys to be tillers of the soil. In 1831, our subject emigrated to this country, to try his fortunes in the West, of which he had heard so much while in Scotland, and, with the determination, which is characteristic of the race, which when made, is generally carried out to its full realization, he decided that he would some day have a home of his own, and be independent. Having excellent health, a robust frame, a cheerful disposition, he soon made friends; being a No. 1 stone-mason, which he had learned in Scotland, his services were immediately brought into requisition; worked in Pittsburgh, Cleveland and other places. His first purchase of land was in Columbiana Co., of 100 acres, costing \$5 per acre. Subsequently sold this, and removed to Congress Township, in Wayne Co., where he purchased 77 acres, for which he paid \$850, there being some improvements on the same, consisting of a small cabin and a log barn. After his advent to this place, he gave his attention more particularly to farming pursuits. He has been twice married, first, to Jeannette Lidell, who died in 1872, leaving no issue. Sept. 14, 1875, was married to his present wife, whose maiden name was Catharine Rupley, who

was born Oct. 5, 1832, in Dauphin Co., Penn., daughter of Michael and Catharine Himmilrich, both were natives of same place, to whom were born a family of nine children, six sons and three daughters, all of whom grew to be men and women. The family emigrated West in 1855, locating in Millbrook Township, Wayne Co., this State, where they made their subsequent permanent abode. Her father died in 1872; his worthy companion yet survives him, being now 86 years of age; both of the above were professors of religion, he of the Baptist Church, she of the M. E. Church. Mr. Nairn finally disposed of his interests in Wayne Co. at a large advance of his first purchase, and bought 160 acres about one mile southwest of the Center, and has for several years past been a citizen of this township. Is now enjoying the fruits of his labor, having an abundance of everything about him that is requisite to his maintenance, and for his enjoyment, all of which has been the outgrowth of his industry and frugality. He is a member of the Old Seceder Church, of the good old kind; his wife of the Lutheran denomination. Mr. Nairn, though no politician, is of Republican sentiment, and a substantial member of the community.

JOHN NORTON, farmer; P. O. Lodi; was born Jan. 12, 1830, in Yorkshire, England, and emigrated to America with his parents when he was but 2 years of age. His parents were Richard and Sarah (Richardson) Norton, and were born, respectively, July 24, 1784, and Nov. 5, 1787. His parents located in the south-east portion of Harrisville Township, now owned by Samuel Norton, the brother of the above. John was raised to farming, and continued under the paternal roof until he was 30 years of age, at which time he formed a matrimonial alliance with Sarah Winters, who was born in Lincolnshire, England, Aug. 7, 1842; their marriage was duly celebrated according to the laws of the commonwealth, March 7, 1860. Her parents were William and Ann (Freeman) Winters, who emigrated to this county from England in the year 1848; her father, now a resident of Chatham, having passed his three-score years and ten; his wife passed to her rest March 19, 1879. After Mr. Norton was married, he resided three years in the northeast part of the township, then removing to Chatham, resided until 1866, when he located in the extreme southwest corner of the





township, a part of which farm was settled and cleared up by Isaac Rogers. To Mr. Norton have been born six children—Ira D., Charles E., John A., Alice E., Clara E. and Albert Foster. Mr. Norton has a good farm of 212½ acres, and, with the exception of \$400, has acquired it through hard labor, and the daily practice of rigid economy.

WILLIAM F. NYE, farmer and Infirmary Superintendent; P. O. Whittlesey; was born April 2, 1816, near Glen's Falls, Washington Co., N. Y. His father's name was Timothy, who was born Sept. 6, 1780, in Woodstock, Vt., and was married to Mary Lewis, Dec. 19, 1806, she was born May 1, 1788, in same State. Timothy Nye was a millwright and built many mills in that locality and in Canada. To this couple were born eight children, five of the number grew up. The family emigrated West in the fall of 1817, arriving Nov. 1, to Westfield, locating a short distance west of the "Center," where he purchased 63½ acres of land and built the log cabin where Ezra Booth's house stands, it being at that time, about the third one in the township; at least, there were not enough men in the township to raise it; assistance necessary was obtained from Harrisville Township. Here he died July 5, 1846; his wife survived him many years, and died at her daughter's in Iowa, November, 1878. William F. remained at home until he was 22 years of age. He learned the carpenter's trade, and worked with his brother for several years, in this and other counties, and some in Illinois. Sept. 15, 1845, he was married to Fannie Phillips, who was born in Westfield Township Sept. 20, 1823; is of a family of six children, herself and five brothers, who were born to Calvin and Sallie (Briggs) Phillips; he was born near Bennington, Vt., May 13, 1785, she in Taunton, Mass., Dec. 9, 1789, and emigrated to Westfield, in 1819, and was elected Justice of the Peace, his commission being signed by Gov. Jeremiah Morrow, May 5, 1823, and was probably the first Justice of the Peace in the township; the instrument of judicial authority is now in the possession of Mr. Nye. After the death of Mr. Nye's father, he purchased the homestead, and bought the heirs' interest, and was a resident of the township until 1874. Since that time, he has been Superintendent of the County Infirmary, taking possession March 1, same year, which position he has since retained; his

administration and good management of the institution have been satisfactory to the people. To him have been born three children—Mary, now the wife of Ebenezer Bissell, of Westfield; Clara, now the wife of Rev. A. McCullough, of Coshocton County, and George, yet at home. Mr. and Mrs. Nye are both members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. His father was identified with the Free-Will Baptists, and was one of the prominent and official members of that denomination, and largely influential in the formation of the church society in that township. Since 1863, Mr. Nye has given his attention to farming exclusively, his tools are laid by, as the companions of other days. Cast his first vote for Harrison, and has, to the present, been true to his first conceptions of political preference. The old Phillips farm, consisting of 160 acres, in Westfield, is under his control and ownership.

FRANK O. PHILLIPS, farming; P. O. Whittlesey. Born Jan. 1, 1858, at La Fayette Center, the second child born to Oscar and Sarah (Simmons) Phillips. Frank's early boyhood was spent in school, receiving the advantages afforded both in common district and the high school, at Medina. His father being a farmer, our subject has been reared to this business, and is now engaged in carrying on the farm for his father, who resides in Medina. Jan. 29, 1879, he was married to Emma Steele, born April 13, 1860, in Canaan Township, Wayne Co., Ohio. She is a daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth (Blizzard) Steele. Mr. Steele was born in Orleans Co., Vt., July 11, 1822. He was a son of Samuel, who was born in Connecticut, 1781, and was a lumberman. The mother of Samuel Steele, was Betsey Hoisington, daughter of John S. Hoisington. Samuel Steele came West, locating in Wayne Co., in 1826, where he lived until he came to this county, in 1872. Elizabeth Blizzard, the mother of Mrs. Phillips, was born in Wiltshire, England, March 1828, daughter of Thomas and Catharine (Pierce) Blizzard, to whom were born six children. Mr. and Mrs. Steele were married Nov. 13, 1853. Three children have crowned their union, who are—Lucy J., now Mrs. Charles Stickney, of this township; Emma, the wife of Frank Phillips, our subject, and Samuel, at home. The Phillips farm entire consists of 260 acres. For a more extended history of the Phillips family, the reader is re-



ferred to the biographical sketch of Capt. Oscar Phillips, of Medina, who is the father of our subject.

**H. S. PROUTY**, carpenter and joiner, Whitesey. Among the worthy mechanics of this township, is Henry S. Prouty, who was born Sept. 22, 1841, in the town of Madrid, Jefferson Co., N. Y., and came to this county with his parents, when but 2 years of age. His father's name was Jefferson, born Aug. 4, 1804, in Vermont State, son of Stephen Prouty, who was a soldier in the war of the Revolution. The mother of our subject, was Esther Underwood, prior to her marriage with Mr. Prouty. To them were born five children, all of whom are now living, whose names are Adelia, now the wife of F. B. Clark, Treasurer of the County; Celestia, now Mrs. N. P. Robbins, of Fostoria, Seneca Co.; Henry S., of this township; Horace F., of Lincoln Co., Kan., and Lydia L., unmarried. Henry S. left home at the age of 16, and for eight years worked out by the month on a farm, then learned the carpenter and joiner's trade, and, since that time, has been engaged in that business, being a good mechanic, his services are always in demand, and is known as an honest workman, and has been employed in the erection of many of the farm structures in the surrounding county. Has good property at La Fayette Center, all of which has been the result of his own industry. Aug. 18, 1872, he married Florence A. Prentice, born Aug. 17, 1850, in Harrisville Township, the second child of William and Phoebe Prentice. Her father is deceased, her mother yet resides in Lodi. Mr. and Mrs. Prouty have no issue. Mr. Prouty's brother, Horace F., was for three years a soldier in the late war, serving in Co. B, 42d O. V. I. Mr. Prouty's ancestors have been Democratic in their political sentiments, but our subject, since his majority, has been affiliated with the Republican element.

**L. M. PIERCE**, farmer; P. O. Medina. The Pierce family trace their ancestry to Abraham Pierce, who came to America three years after the landing of the Pilgrim Fathers, and settled in Plymouth Colony. From him has descended the above-mentioned gentleman, who was born July 20, 1810, in Hardwick Township, Otsego Co., N. Y. He was the eldest child born to his parents. His father was Capt. Isaac Pierce, whose wife was Polly Webb. Isaac was born Sept. 15, 1784, in Peru Township, son of Levi,

who was born in Millbury, Mass., Feb. 26, 1739. He was a son of Shadrach, whose birth occurred July 8, 1717, who was a son of Isaac, who was a son of Abraham, who was the patriarchal ancestor of the family. In referring to the published history of the Pierce family, are found some very interesting facts in relation to the family, several of whom held high official stations in both civil and military life. The marked characteristics of the family seem to have been great manly vigor, longevity, and a high sense of probity, honor and moral integrity. Levi was the grandfather of our subject, to whom were born eleven children—ten sons and one daughter—whose names were as below, which he arranged in rhyme, as follows:

Abner, George and Ben,  
Eli, Liberty and Hen,  
Levi, Shadrach and Dan,  
Isaac and Sarah Ann.

Isaac, the father of L. M., was a house-carpenter and farmer, member of Masonic Fraternity, and an officer of the militia, first commissioned as Ensign in 1824, promoted to Lieutenant in 1827, and Captain in 1829, and honorably discharged in 1832. His sons were Lorenzo M., William, and Benjamin, who was in the late war; was Justice of the Peace, and a Representative of the General Court in Boston; the youngest being Alva B. The father died April 28, 1867; his wife, Sept. 1, 1866. Lorenzo M. was reared to agricultural pursuits. In 1833, he came West to Medina Co. and took up 112 acres in this township, which land he now owns, for which he paid \$3.50 per acre. That season, he chopped down about 3 acres, and hired 4 acres cut. Sept. 23, 1835, he was married to Emeline Branch, born July 30, 1811, in the town of Worthington, Hampshire Co., Mass., the eldest daughter of Elisha and Sarah (Thompson) Branch, who were early settlers in York Township, and among the prominent families of the county, who came West, locating in York Township, in 1832. In June, 1837, Mr. Pierce and wife returned to this county, and soon erected him a cabin, moved into the same and was happy. He has since been a constant resident of the farm; has been reasonably successful; has an excellent farm, consisting of 170 acres, which is favorably located, and but three miles distant from Medina. Of a family of eleven children, ten grew up, who are Ellen, now the wife of Norman Everson, President of the National





Bank in Washington Co., Iowa; Amelia M., Mrs. C. J. Warner, of Medina; Isaac L., lost his life in the defense of his country; he was shot Sept. 13, 1864, and died the day following, near Harper's Ferry, where he was taken and embalmed, and sent home to his parents; he had served out his term of three years' enlistment, and had re-enlisted; he was a brave and valiant soldier; was among the number who pursued John Morgan in his raid through Kentucky and this State, and was present at his capture; Harriet, married Lieut. H. A. Howard, now near Red Cloud, Webster Co., Neb.; Sarah, Mrs. L. H. Kimball, in Neenah, Wis.; Elisha B., in Nebraska; Julia, wife of Mr. J. W. Warren, now Sheriff of Webster Co.; Ara B., in Nebraska; Melva A. and Edwin D., at home. Mr. and Mrs. Pierce have, for many years, been members of the Congregational Church, of which he is Deacon. Mr. Pierce, though 70 years of age, yet retains the vigor of his earlier years, and which is characteristic of the family. His grandfather, when at the age of 87, mowed, in one half-day, with a scythe, 1 acre of heavy grass. Mr. Pierce has devoted his entire life to agricultural pursuits, and his residence of over fifty years in the township has established in the community his character as an upright man and a Christian gentleman.

S. S. PALMER, farmer; P. O. Whittlesey; was born Aug. 27, 1830, in Island Creek Township, Jefferson Co., Ohio, the second of a family of four children, born to George and Elma (Coulter) Palmer; both were born in Jefferson Co., his birth occurring Oct. 17, 1806. He was a son of Nathaniel Palmer, who emigrated from Washington Co., Penn., to Ohio, when it was a Territory. Indians were, at that time, more plentiful than the whites. Jefferson Co. was the place of his settlement, where he raised a family of children, who were afterward among the early settlers in other localities. The circumstances attending the deaths of Nathaniel and his wife are worthy of a passing notice. His death occurred in Richland Co., while absent on business. A messenger was at once dispatched to his wife, informing her of the sad news. While on his way, at "Elkhorn Tavern," he was met by a second messenger, bearing the intelligence to him of the death of his wife, their deaths occurring within twelve hours of each other. Of the family born to George and Elma Palmer, are James, now in Guilford; S. S., of

this township; Allen, and Sarah (Mrs. John D. Grafton), of Jefferson Co., Ohio. All of the above were born in the log house their grandfather Nathaniel built, which had but one small window, several feet from the floor. The door was a massive one, of two inches in thickness, of black walnut. The father of our subject died Oct. 29, 1863. His wife yet survives him, and resides in Guilford Township. S. S. remained at home until his 22d year; came to this county in 1852; worked one year for his brother in Guilford. Feb. 10, 1853, was wedded to Elizabeth Vaughn, who was born July 10, 1832, in Washington Co., Penn. Her parents were Andrew and Drusilla (Shane) Vaughn. He was born Jan. 2, 1806, in Washington Co., Penn.; he was a son of Joseph Shane, whose wife was a Storer; he was from New Jersey, and settled in Washington Co., Penn. Drusilla was born Aug. 10, 1812; she was a daughter of Henry Shane, whose wife was Elizabeth Palmer before marriage. Henry Shane was born at the foot of "Ginger Hill," in Washington Co., and emigrated to Jefferson Co. at an early day, and finally located in Montville in the spring of 1845. After our subject was married, he moved to the extreme southeast corner of this township, where he purchased 75 acres, remaining on the same until 1875, when he sold, and removed to his present place, consisting of 101 acres, situated one mile south of the Center. He and wife are members of the Congregational Church. Mrs. Palmer's family, on both sides, were strict adherents of the Old School Presbyterian doctrine. The father of S. S. was a man of excellent information—a great reader—and had a very retentive memory, and was an excellent citizen. S. S. and wife compose their entire family, having no issue.

THOMAS PALMER, farmer; P. O. Chipewa Lake; is a son of Jonathan and Elizabeth (Dicky) Palmer; Jonathan was born Oct. 12, 1804, in Jefferson Co., Ohio; son of Nathaniel Palmer, who was a native of Pennsylvania, and emigrated to Ohio when it was a Territory, locating in what is now Jefferson Co. Jonathan, his son, at the age of 16, went to learn the blacksmith's trade. March 19, 1829, he was married to Elizabeth Dicky, who was born in Jefferson Co. Dec. 15, 1803; of a family of ten children—five brothers and five sisters—she being now the sole survivor of the family. Her parents were William and Margaret (Francis)



Dicky; he was a Pennsylvanian, and was there married, and came West to Jefferson Co. about the time the Palmer family arrived. Mrs. Palmer's mother was a native of Ireland. William Dicky was a blacksmith by trade, at which he worked for years. His son John came to this county at an early time, purchasing 800 acres of land located in Westfield and Guilford Townships. To him were born three children; but two of the number grew to manhood—Samuel R. and Abram. Jonathan came to this township in March, 1835, and purchased 90 acres in the southeast part of the township, which land was unimproved—not a stick had been cut. He afterward built a frame house—the first one that was built in the neighborhood—and, for several years, experienced many of the ills and inconveniences which are incident to pioneer life in the settlement of a new country. After a life of usefulness in the community, as an upright man and worthy citizen, he passed to his rest Oct. 4, 1875. His worthy companion yet lingers to cheer and comfort her son Thomas, with whom she has resided since the death of her husband, both having been members of the Presbyterian Church for many years. He was an old-time Whig, and, afterward, was affiliated with the Republican party, and was Postmaster at the time of his death. During the existence of slavery, he was always strenuously opposed to slave traffic and the extension of slave territory. The subject of this sketch was born on the farm upon which he now lives, Dec. 15, 1839, and has ever been a resident of the home family. Oct. 10, 1872, he was married to Almira Henry, who was born in Montville March 10, 1841, daughter of Robert and Almira (Clark) Henry. He was born in Cambridge, Washington Co., N. Y., April 20, 1789, she June 7, 1801; they were married Nov. 20, 1826, and emigrated West in 1835, to this county, settling in Montville. To them were born six children—Patrick, Horace, Andrew, Albert, John and Hiram; but five are living—Horace, in Michigan; Albert and Andrew, in Chicago; Hiram, in Montville (and herself). Her father died Sept. 29, 1862; his wife yet survives him. Thomas Palmer, our subject, is the only son of his parents; he has one sister, Mrs. Joseph H. Barrett, of this township. When Mr. Palmer died, he had 150 acres of land, to which Thomas has since added 110, making now in all

260. He is a successful farmer, and one of the township's best citizens. His matrimonial union has not been crowned with any family additions in the way of children. Mr. P. is a man of good information, and, like his worthy paternal ancestor, is a staunch Republican.

L. D. PHINNEY, retired farmer; P. O. Whittlesey; is a native of Connecticut, born September 7, 1807, the youngest child of his parents, who were Benjamin and Hannah (Yeoman) Phinney; he was born about the year 1876, his wife one year later. To them were born nine children, eight of the number attained to man's estate. The family were all born in Connecticut, but removed to Oneida Co., N. Y., when L. D. was a lad of tender age. His boyhood days were spent at home, and attending the common district school, which he did not appreciate as he might have done, consequently his education was not as thorough and comprehensive as his opportunities afforded; he continued at the parental home until he attained his 4 and 20 years. During this time he was engaged on the farm, assisting his father in the duties of the farm. Oct. 20, 1831, he was married to his present companion, whose maiden name was Laura Houghton, whose place of nativity was Maryland Township, Otsego Co., N. Y., time of birth April 15, 1809; her parents were Ebenezer and Margery (Bigelow) Houghton; to them were born eleven children, but five lived to be grown. After the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Phinney, they remained on the farm of his father until 1856, when he emigrated to this State, settling at La Fayette Center, where he has since been a constant resident. Their marriage has been crowned by the birth of three children, whose names are Loring H., Eben H. and Emily J. Mr. Phinney is now the only surviving member of the Phinney family. Mrs. Phinney has two sisters, Emily, Mrs. Seth P. Duncan, in Oswego, N. Y., and Rebecca, Mrs. Isaac Blair, of this township; her parents died in this township, her father in 1857, mother in 1860. They were both members of the Congregational Church, of which Mrs. Phinney has been a member since 16 years of age. Mr. Phinney has been successful since his advent to this place—coming here with but \$50 in money, he has acquired his present home, and 136 acres of land; having sold off a portion, has now 104 acres, and is enjoying the comforts of his home





in the eve of his life, surrounded by his wife and children. Mr. Phinney has always lived a quiet life, taking but little interest in political matters, living, in the main, a quiet and unostentatious life; he is a member of the Congregational Church, and a respected member of the community. Sent one son, Eben H., to defend our nation's honor, he serving as a member in Company "B," 42d O. V. I., for three years, and returned home to his parents safe and sound, from the changing vicissitudes of civil strife. He was married Oct. 22, 1865, to Caroline Jacobs, adopted daughter of John Jacobs; has two children, Elsie D. and Ervine L.

EDWIN R. RICE, farmer; P. O. Whittlesey; was born Sept. 22, 1832, in Genesee Co., N. Y., and came West with his parents when he was but 2 years of age. His parents were James and Rhoda (Ellsworth) Rice. He was a native of Genesee Co., born 1805; his parents were of German descent. Rhoda was a daughter of Ira Ellsworth, of Scotch parentage. James Rice, upon his arrival to this county, selected as his place of location the center of this township, on a tract of 110 acres, upon which there had been but slight improvements. His family consisted of his wife and nine children. But five of them attained their major years, who were Jane, now Mrs. Horace Prouty, of Lincoln Co., Kan.; Amanda, Mrs. Amos Boice, of this town; Phoebe Ann, now in Kansas (unmarried); Edwin R. and James A., of this township. Edwin was but 13 years of age when his father died, but remained with his mother on the homestead until he was 23 years of age, when he went to Bureau Co., Ill., where he spent three years. During this time, spent one winter in Allegan Co., Mich. Returning to this township, on the homestead, remained until Sept. 24, 1861, when he enlisted for three years in Co. B, 42d O. V. I., and served out his term of enlistment. For one year served in the Regimental Hospital. Was at Arkansas Post and Cumberland Gap, and participated in several skirmishes, and returned home, receiving an honorable discharge Sept. 24, 1864. Sept. 26, 1865, married Alvira McDougall, born Sept. 4, 1843, in Hinckley Township, daughter of Dougall McDougall, whose wife was Rosilla Doane, born July 17, 1818, in Greene Co., Vt. He was born Aug. 22, 1814, in Canada. He was a son of Dougall, whose father was likewise of the same name. Mrs. Rice's grandfather on her

mother's side was Isaiah, and of Yankee stock. Since Mr. Rice was married, he has been a constant resident of the township. Since 1872, has resided on the homestead, which consists of 80 acres. Five children have been born them—Rhoda R., Perry J., Ruthie P., Anna E. and Libbie E. Mr. Rice and wife are of Christian faith. His father and mother were members of the Baptist Church. Mrs. Rice's parents were members of the Christian Church, termed by some "Disciples." Farming has been the business in which he has been engaged. While his ancestors were members of the old Democratic party, the young stock of the name have walked in Republican ranks.

ANSON RANDALL, farmer and trader; P. O. Medina. Esquire Randall was born Feb. 6, 1823, in Saybrook, Middlesex Co., Conn., eldest of a family of three children born to Stephen and Phoebe (Wood) Randall. He was born in Norwich, Conn. He was a surveyor and a seafaring man; was a Captain of a merchantman. He went on the sea at the age of 10 years, and followed the ocean for forty years. His father before him was a seafaring man also. Phoebe Wood was a daughter of Richard, who was a son of Jesse Wood. The Randalls are of Scotch descent. Stephen was twice married; first to Cetura Fanning, and by her had ten children, two of them died at sea. Stephen came to Connecticut, Middlesex Co., where Anson was born. After abandoning his ocean life, locating in Susquehanna Co., Penn., in 1825, where he lived until 1832, when he came West, locating in Bath Township (then Medina Co.), where he purchased 70 acres of woodland; lived there two years and taught school; then moved near the "Croton House," where he lived two years; during these times, he experienced no little privation. Finally came to this township after living one year in Chatham, and settled in the north part of the township, where R. B. Hart now resides. This farm, he cleared up and remained on it up to the time of his death, which occurred in his 82d year. Anson took charge of the farm at the age of 18. Oct. 18, 1844, was married to Elizabeth Jamison, born in Canada, daughter of Samuel and Sarah (Long) Jamison; he was born Sept. 24, 1792; both natives of Canada. After the marriage of Mr. Randall, he settled on the homestead. His wife died March 25, 1863, leaving five children; three living—



Minerva, in St. Joe Co., Mich.; Stephen H., in Gratiot Co., Mich.; Lewis G., in Sturgis, St. Joe Co., same State. Mr. Randall's present wife was Maria Zimmerman, born in Plain Township, Wayne Co., Ohio, Nov. 25, 1829, daughter of Samuel and Mary (Patterson) Zimmerman, he was a native of Pennsylvania, she of Maryland, Mrs. Randall being their only child. April, 1879, Mr. Randall located on the farm he now owns, consisting of 109 acres, situated on the south side of the Smith road, which Mr. Randall helped cut out when he was a lad of 16. For several years he has been engaged in importing and breeding Spanish merino sheep. For sixteen years, was engaged as traveling salesman, selling and introducing agricultural implements and all kinds of farm machinery, having a range of several counties. Mr. Randall's father was a Jackson Democrat. Anson was first identified with the Abolition party, but, in later years, has been a Republican. Has served as Justice of the Peace nine years, and been twelve years Assessor. Has two children by last wife—Lillie M. and Alfred B.

JOSEPH ROBB, farmer; P. O. Chippewa Lake; was born Oct. 7, 1808, in Chester Co., Penn., of a family of thirteen children, he being the second in order of birth, all of whom were born to James and Sarah Russell; his father's name was Joseph, who was a native of Scotland. The Russells are likewise of Scotch extraction. Joseph's father had four sisters and three brothers—William, John and James; the sisters were Isabella, Hannah, Jane and Mary. Joseph was raised to farming pursuits. In 1827, he removed West with his parents to Milton Township, Wayne Co., Ohio. His father was in limited circumstances, and was not in possession of means to purchase land at his coming, but rented several years before purchasing. Joseph lived with his father several years after he became a man, and attended to his father's business. April 2, 1835, he was wedded to Mary L. Lance, who was born in Jefferson Co., Ohio, in 1814. She was a daughter of Henry and Lucinda (Lee) Lance. The Lances are from New Jersey, and the Lees from Virginia. After Mr. Robb was married, he lived one year in Guilford; then returned to Wayne Co., where he lived three years. In 1839, he came to this township, and has since remained; first purchased 100 acres of unimproved land and began in the woods; the first year he cleared 15

acres, and, continuing on, he in time transferred the forest growth to cultivated fields. He has devoted his life to agricultural pursuits, and, though beginning with nothing, he has, by patient industry and frugality, acquired a good home and a competence for his declining years. To him have been born two children—Henry N. and Sarah. Henry died in February, 1870, aged 29; his death fell with such force upon the mind of his mother that her reason became dethroned, and she died in 1871. Sarah is the wife of John Stone, of Milton Township, Wayne Co. March 5, 1874, Mr. Robb was married to Mrs. Sarah Chapin, whose maiden name was Hawley. She was born in Solon, Cortland Co., N. Y., April 9, 1813. She was a daughter of Stephen and Polly (Welch) Hawley; he was a native of Connecticut, she of Dutchess Co., N. Y. To them were born a family of seven children. The family came West in 1837, and located in Pittsfield, Lorain Co., Ohio. Mrs. Robb's first husband was Norman Chapin, a native of Cortland Co., N. Y.; to them were born two children, none living; he died in 1868. Mr. Robb has three brothers—Jackson, in Weymouth; Franklin, in Kansas, and John, in Henry Co., Ill. Mr. Robb has for many years been a consistent member of the Baptist Church. He has now an excellent farm of 125 acres.

REV. PEMBERTON RANDALL, farmer and minister; P. O. Whittlesey; is among the acceptable and efficient ministers who, for many years past, have proclaimed the glad tidings of the Gospel, and endeavored with anxious solicitude to administer to the spiritual needs of sinful humanity in this county. He was born Oct. 6, 1807, in Lebanon Township, New London Co., Conn., of a family of three sons and four daughters, he being the eldest of his brothers and the second of the number born. His parents were James and Joanna (Pemberton) Randall. His place of birth was in Chatham, Conn., in December, 1778, his wife being born in August, two years later, in the same State. The Randalls are of Scotch and the Pembertons of English descent. Mr. Randall's father was a blacksmith, which trade he followed nearly his entire life. Our subject's early life was spent in the agricultural districts, and, while he attended school to some extent, his hands were not strangers to the use of the implements of husbandry. About the





age of 20, he embarked for himself, having obtained education sufficient to enable him to teach the "young idea," which vocation he followed during the winter, and working by the month on the farm, \$10 being his compensation per month at the time he embarked in the profession. Until 31 years of age, he was thus alternately employed. Three years later, he married Maria T. Beebe, who was born in Ontario Co., N. Y., and then moved westward to this county, locating in Granger Township. Being impressed that it was his duty to enter the ministry, and the better to qualify himself for that important position, he attended Geauga College, and studied the languages until he obtained satisfactory knowledge of the same. Upon his return, came to Medina, where he had the pastoral charge of the Free-Will Baptist Church at that place for some time, and since has preached regularly up to 1878, and at regular intervals up to the present time. He has been instrumental in doing much good, and through his efforts many have been caused to turn from the error of their ways and found comfort and salvation through the atoning merits of the Redeemer. Mr. Randall's father moved to this county in 1838, and settled in Granger; finally moved to Summit Co., where he died in 1849; his wife survived him until 1854. Of the brothers of our subject living are D. P. Randall, now of Sharon Township, and David A., who is the author of that interesting work entitled "The Handwriting of God in Sinai and the Holy Land." He resides in Cleveland. One sister is in Medina Township, Catharine, now Mrs. W. H. Witter. To Mr. Randall have been born ten children; but five of the number are living—Theodore B.; Thomas P.; Maria T., now Mrs. G. O. Chapman; Sarah A., Mrs. McKay, and Lydia E. T. B. is now teaching in this county; Thomas P. is in Lincoln Co., Kan., also Mrs. Chapman; Mrs. McKay is in Cleveland; Lydia E. at home. Mr. Randall has always been a man of great industry, never desiring to be idle. Early in life, he took up the trade of his father, and has had for many years on his place a shop, in which he spends much of his time in mending and keeping in repair such implements and tools as may need such attention upon his farm. Though never much interested in political matters, yet he has always been Republican in sentiment. He sent three of his sons to defend the flag of our

Union. David A. died in the service; Theodore B. served three years in Co. K, 8th O. V. I. Thomas P. was in the 166th, and re-enlisted and served until the close of the war. Mr. Randall's youngest son met with a tragical death by the discharge of a gun in his own hands in December, 1879, while in Kansas. He was 23 years of age.

G. M. SHAW, farmer; P. O. Whittlesey; born July 19, 1838, in York Township, this county. His parents were William and Hannah (Peacock) Shaw, both of whom were natives of England. He was born June 1, 1800, in Yorkshire, and was a son of John, also; Hannah Peacock was born in the same shire, Nov. 20, 1800, daughter of Thomas Peacock, of English birth and parentage. Moody, the middle name of our subject, was from his grandmother, who was a Moody. The Moodys in England were of the best families, and were heirs to a large estate, which one of the number forfeited by marrying contrary to the wishes of her parents. George M.'s grandfather's daughter was a Moody. She ran off and married a footman, and, as a result, her parents cut her off with a shilling. The parents of our subject emigrated to this country in 1829, locating four years in St. Lawrence Co., N. Y., and came to this county in 1833, and purchased 60 acres in York Township, for which he paid \$3 per acre. A log cabin was hastily constructed. The forest soon melted away under the devastating influence of his labor and perseverance. After eighteen years' residence, he had accumulated 299 acres of land, which was at this time pretty well improved. He then moved to Montville Township, where he remained until his death, Sept. 3, 1869, being worth at the time of his death about \$20,000, all of which he had made since he came to this county. G. M. is of a family of ten children, whose names are John, now of Montville; Ann (Mrs. John Eggleston), in Seville; Jane (Mrs. A. G. Miner), in Medina; Thomas, in Montville; William, in Brunswick; Hannah (Mrs. Thomas Peacock), in St. Lawrence Co., N. Y.; G. M., in this township; Emeline, in Medina; Mary A. (Mrs. Daniel Harrington), in Michigan; all now living. Our subject remained at home until Dec. 25, 1859, when he was married to Ann Fretter, who was born June 15, 1839, in Avon, Lorain Co., Ohio, daughter of Henry and Mary (Askill) Fretter. He was born in Northamptonshire, Eng., Nov.



11, 1799. He was a son of John, who was born in 1759. Mary Askill's father's name was John. Mrs. Shaw's father came West in 1835, locating in Avon, and to him were born nine children. Six grew to maturity—Jane, now in Michigan; John, in Minnesota; Thomas, in Grafton; Henry W., in Michigan; Joseph, in Litchfield. Mrs. Shaw had three brothers who served three years in the late war—Thomas, Henry and Joseph—the latter losing his right arm. The family above mentioned moved to York in 1859. Mr. Fretter died April 6, 1877. His mother is still living. After Mr. Shaw was married, he remained in York until 1866, when he moved to this township and purchased 105 acres, where he now resides. He has now 180 acres. He, like his father, is a successful financier. Being a hard worker, and having a valuable helpmeet and an industrious family, he is destined to attain still greater ends than those already accomplished. He has a family of nine children, whose names are Lyman J., Early P., Zada P. (more commonly known as "Dot"), Gilmore S., Frank E., William H., Kittie May, Lena E. and Alonzo E. Mr. Shaw, in connection with his farm, is running a thrashing machine and clover huller, and is a great man for encouraging the use of machinery in all departments of husbandry. Both Mr. Shaw and wife are members of the Universalist Church at Westfield.

G. SPITZER, farming and stock-raising; P. O. Medina; is one of the foremost and leading agriculturists and stock-raisers in the township. His birth occurred Nov. 7, 1817, in Glennville, Schenectady Co., N. Y. His parents were Nicholas and Nancy (Bovee) Spitzer, whose births were, respectively, Nov. 26, 1784, and Nov. 19, 1791, and were married in the same county as born. The grandfather of our subject was Garrett, whose name he now bears. The Spitzer family, according to the tradition, came originally from Holland, and from here they removed to England, and were among the gentry of that time, yet, from some cause not now known, their financial condition became impaired to such an extent that they were induced to join the hardy yeomanry to better their condition. They came to America through the influence of Garrett's father's uncle, who was a Surgeon in the English army, and, having been in New York prior to the Revolution, gave such a glowing description of

the Mohawk and Hudson Valleys to his friends upon his return, that they were induced to cast their lots and fortunes with those of Northern New York. The Spitzer family that came to this county was headed by Nicholas, who gathered up his personal effects and embarked for the Buckeye State, starting September 5, 1836, which time, our subject states, there was a heavy frost, the effects of which were seen the entire journey. Arriving here, Nicholas purchased 112 acres of land at \$11 per acre, there being about fifteen acres "slashed." Garrett being the eldest of the family of the boys, and while he was rather disheartened at the appearance the country presented, yet he reasoned with the wisdom of a philosopher that as they were *here*, the better plan was to "pitch in" and make the best of it, and what was wanting in surroundings they might supply by hard labor. The result was, that in the fall following, they had forty acres well fenced, and in three years' time the farm was cleared. The day our subject attained his majority, he contracted for 75 acres of land of King and Gun. He hadn't a dollar to pay down, but he had credit, and in three years' time had it cleared. During this time he made his father's house his home; and having a cabin under way, and had the cage nearly complete, his next object was to secure the bird. Their nuptials were duly celebrated Nov. 21, 1844, his bride being Mary J. Branch, who was born in Hampshire Co., Mass., March 22, 1827, she being the youngest of a family of nine children, who were born to Elisha and Sallie (Thompson) Branch, who were also natives of the same State and county. His birth occurred April 9, 1787, that of his wife July 3, 1788. Their marriage occurred Oct. 3, 1810. They came West in 1832, and located in York Township. After purchasing his land, he had \$25 left. Here they settled and remained until their death, which occurred Nov. 14, 1856; that of his wife, Feb. 13, 1867; they were members of the Congregational Church, and were the stanch representatives of that township. Their children are as follows: Emeline, of this township, the wife of L. M. Pierce; Betsey, Mrs. B. B. Hudson, of Detroit, Mich.; he was killed by the railroad; Rev. Edwin T., of Somerset, in Michigan; Cecilia, Mrs. A. C. Bowen, of York Township; Cordelia, the wife of S. F. Judson, elected County Treasurer, Benzonia,





Mich., fall of 1880, who was accidentally killed; Nathan E., of Williamson, Mich.; Sarah, Mrs. Albert Mead, in Michigan; Hannah, Mrs. H. J. Williams, of Oberlin, and Mary J., Mrs. G. Spitzer, of this township, who is the worthy spouse of our subject. Of Mr. Spitzer's brother's family now living, are Aaron B., in York Township; Jacob, in Chatham. Mr. Spitzer lived nine years on the farm he first owned, then purchased where he now resides. He has 500 acres of land, which is well improved and stocked with sheep, which he makes more of a specialty than of any other stock. His efforts have been crowned with marked success. If he has succeeded better than many other men, it is because he has worked harder, and planned better, and grasped the opportunities whenever presented, making them serve his purpose. Raised up with limited education, his usefulness and natural promptings have always been hampered from the lack of a liberal education, whereby he might have attained much more satisfactory results in other spheres of labor that his aspirations have pointed out. Has been a man of great energy and business enterprise, devoting his entire life to agricultural pursuits, not seeking publicity of office, though, at the solicitations of friends, has filled some important positions of trust and honor; served several years as Director and Adjuster in the Ohio Farmer's Insurance Company. Has been a man of excellent health, and temperate in his habits. For many years has been a member of the Congregational Church, and has ever borne his part as a citizen in the community as neighbor and friend. To them have been born eight children—Alice M., Mrs. A. M. Loomis, Jones Co., Iowa; Eva, Mrs. W. C. Lyon, in Amherst; A. T., Amherst, in this township; Aaron D., in Jones Co., Iowa; Adelbert L., banker in North Amherst; Francella J., Louetti M. and Bessie.

A. D. SHELDON, farmer and county surveyor; P. O. Whittlesey. Amos was born Feb. 27, 1845, in Herkimer Co., N. Y., the only child now living, born to his parents, who were Hiram and Eirene (Jacobs) Sheldon. Hiram was born June 22, 1798, in Montgomery Co., N. Y. He was the fourth of a family of eight children, who were born to his parents, six of whom reached man's estate. Amos and Anna (King) Sheldon—he was born May 10, 1769, in Sheffield Co., Conn., also his wife, in March 17, 1770. His father's name was Elijah, who was wounded

in the Revolutionary war. Hiram, at the age of 10, removed with his parents to Herkimer Co., N. Y., where his father died March 10, 1832, his wife following him Nov. 12, seven years later. Hiram was raised to agricultural pursuits, remaining with his father until 22 years of age. Left home, stayed one year, and returned home, and cared for his parents until their decease. July 1, 1830, he was married to Miss Jacobs, who was born Sept. 29, 1805, in Hillsboro Co., N. H. She was a daughter of John and Sallie Jacobs. Emigrated West in May, 1849, locating on the farm he now resides upon, consisting of 120 acres, near La Fayette Center. The father of Amos is yet living; although past his fourscore years, he is yet vigorous and in the enjoyment of a reasonable degree of health for a man of his years. His companion has several years since passed to her reward. For forty years, Mr. Sheldon has been an acceptable member of the Close Communion Baptists; his life and association with the world, has been in harmony with his profession. Has lived an honored and highly respected member in the community, and as he now stands, with one foot almost upon the other shore, he is waiting the call of the Master, and is like a shock of corn fully ripe and ready to respond to His call. Amos was but a lad of 4 years when his parents came from the Empire State. His home has since been on the farm his father located. His early boyhood was spent upon the farm and in attending school, which advantages he improved, and for ten terms, he has wielded the "birch," and taught acceptably in the county. Has been a man of more than ordinary ability and research, his qualifications being recognized to that extent that the people have called upon him, through the ballot box, to look after the school and township's interest, as School Director, Township Clerk and Trustee, and Land Appraiser. In 1874, he was elected County Surveyor, and since re-elected at different times, and is at this time (1881) the incumbent. May 6, 1866, he became the husband of Cordelia Childs, who was born in this township, Aug. 18, 1842; she is a daughter of Charles and Sallie (Adams) Childs. He was born Dec. 14, 1802, in Vermont. She in New York. They were married Dec. 12, 1837, and came West in 1833, locating in this township. To them were born a family of twelve children, including triplets. Amos D.



has four children—May E., Emma L., Bert C and William H.

S. P. VAUGHN, blacksmith; P. O. Whittlesey; is one of the eldest resident smiths in this part of the county. He was born July 20, 1828, in Mercer Co., Penn. His parents were John and Hannah (Phew) Vaughn. He was born about the year 1801, in Washington Co., Penn.; his father's name was Joseph, to whom were born Nancy, Thomas, Betsy, Lydia, John, Andrew; of those living are Thomas, now in Pennsylvania, and Andrew, in Michigan. Samuel P. emigrated West with his parents in 1845. His father located in the township east of the lake, where he purchased 40 acres, where he lived five years; then moved upon Short street, where he remained until his decease, which occurred in 1862. S. P. remained at home until 22 years of age; his father being a blacksmith, and from him received his first lessons in iron working. In 1850, he located at the Center, at the place he now occupies, and has since been steadily engaged at his trade. The same year he came (1850), July 31, he married Maggie Ormsby, who was born Nov. 29, 1834, daughter of Alexander and Nancy (Wolfeale) Ormsby. He was born in 1801, in Chenango Co., Penn. He was a son of George, who was a native of Ireland; of Scotch and Irish parentage. He died in 1871, at the age of 97. Nancy Wolfeale was born in 1805, in Loudoun Co., Va. Her mother's name, prior to her marriage, was Belinda Ashton. Her husband's name was John Wolfeale. To George Ormsby were born four children—Margaret, Anna, Joseph and Alexander, all deceased. To Alexander were born ten children, nine living—George, in Mahoning Co.; Abraham, in Wells Co., Ind.; Sarah, Mrs. Henry Taylor, in Washington Co., Wis.; Mrs. S. P. Vaughn; Anna, Mrs. Joseph Rich, in Wells Co., Ind.; Martha, Mrs. Aaron Osborne, of Isabella Co., Mich.; Nancy, Mrs. William Schoonover, in Wells Co., Ind.; John H. and Oliver A. in Wells Co., Ind. Alexander Ormsby removed to Ohio at an early time, locating in Mahoning Co., where he lived until 1852, when he removed to Wells Co., Ind.; settled in Union Township, in the wilderness. To Mr. and Mrs. Vaughn have been born five children; but one now living, Rosa M. Mr. Vaughn has now been here over thirty years; he came here poor, yet has, by diligence and attention to his business, acquired a good home, besides has valuable prop-

erty in Cleveland. He is one of the best smiths in the county, and always does honest and satisfactory work. He has been a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church twenty-six years.

N. H. WYATT, transfer; Clyde, Sandusky Co.; was born May 7, 1831, in Steuben Co., Wayne Township, N. Y.; son of Jonathan and Phæbe (Buck) Wyatt. He was born in August, about the year 1776, in Providence, R. I.; he was a son of Stutely Wyatt, who was a near relative of Sir John Wyatt, who came over from England in the Mayflower, in 1620. Phæbe Buck was born in the northwest part of Pennsylvania, Oct. 22, 1804; daughter of Benjamin Buck, who was of German descent. In 1835, the Wyatt family emigrated West to Montgomery Township, Ashtland Co., Ohio, where he purchased 40 acres, situated one mile north of the town of Ashtland, where they lived until Feb. 22, 1843, when they located in this township, southeast part, on the farm now owned by Mr. Kiplinger, where he remained until his death, which occurred in June, 1871. He was a man of but limited education; was a man of industrious habits, and for fifty years was a member of the Regular Baptist Church. During the war of 1812, he "drew at nine drafts" and came free each time, and volunteered at last. To him were born seven children, all of whom attained mature years—four of whom are living—Susan, Mrs. Richard Stevenson, now in Kansas; Ann, now in Dade Co., Mo., the wife of Robert Baubelle; Marvin B., in Clyde, Sandusky Co.; and Nicholas, our subject, who is the eldest of the number. At the age of 21, he hired out to work by the month. In 1854, he went West to Winnebago Co., Ill., and engaged in farming pursuits. Feb. 16, 1857, was married to Harriet M. Blair, who was born in this township July 7, 1839, daughter of Isaac and Rebecca Blair, of this township. Mr. Wyatt was a resident of Winnebago Co. for seven years. In August, 1862, he enlisted in Co. B. 74th Ill. V. I., serving three months; then was transferred to second battalion, Co. H, and was in charge of a company of pioneers of the Pioneer Corps, whose place was in the advance of the army to pioneer the way for the advancing columns—build bridges, and lay pontons across rivers and large streams not fordable, and were often under fire, when in the discharge of their duty. Served twenty months in this capacity, was then transferred into the 1st U.





S. Veteran Engineers, Co. F, where he served until the termination of the war. July 23, 1864, was Gen. Wood's Orderly, was bearing a dispatch to Gen. McPherson, and saw him shot from his horse, and was the first man to pick him up and place him in others' care. Upon his return from service, lived two years in this township, then removed to Clyde, Sandusky Co., this State, where he has since resided and is permanently located, and is engaged in the transfer and draying business. Of five children born him, three are living Clara E., a teacher in the public schools at Clyde; Eddie and Harriet. Mr. Wyatt had two brothers in the late war; Joel served eighteen months in the 6th O. V. C.; since dead; has one child, Stella. Marvin B., enlisted first for three months in Co. K, 8th Ohio. After serving his time, he re-enlisted for three years, serving out his time; was severely wounded at the battle of Gettysburg, and was left for dead on the field. The Wyatt family are true and loyal Republicans.

W. H. WIDEMAN, farmer; P. O. Medina; is a native of this county, and was born in Guilford Township Sept. 10, 1831, the ninth child, in order of birth, born to his parents, who were Jacob and Anna (Guisinger) Wideman. At the age of 15, he was apprenticed to learn the blacksmith's trade; after its completion, he worked at jour work until he became of age, at which time he and his brother John rented the home farm, which they carried on in partnership for four years; he then bought out his brother's interest, carried on the same for three years longer. Nov. 19, 1847, he was married to Mary E. Shank, born Oct. 25, 1841, in Guilford Township, whose parents were Michael and Polly E. (Wideman) Shank (who was a daughter of John Wideman). Mrs. Wideman was of a family of three children, who were Henry and Mary E., both deceased, she being the sole survivor of the children. Her father died when she was young; her mother has since married and now resides in Michigan. Since Mr. Wideman abandoned the anvil and forge, and entered the marriage relation, he has made several changes, and, though contrary to the adage that "the rolling stone gathers no moss," his several changes have resulted favorably to himself in a financial manner. His first removal from the home farm was to Chatham, where he purchased 71

acres—which was settled by one Blake—which he left after a residence of three years, and returned to the old farm, remaining a short time, then removed to Westfield, purchasing a farm in the northern part, south of Chippewa Lake, where he lived until he removed back to Guilford, and was engaged in running a saw-mill for two years; then sold out and bought the William Shook farm, which he owned three years, then sold and in the spring of 1870, moved to his present place of residence, his farm, a tract which was settled by George Wallace, consisting of 125 acres. Mr. Wideman is one of the township's best citizens; is esteemed and highly respected by all who know him; is a man of liberal thought and generously disposed to all enterprises, which are calculated to advance the common interests of the people. Of five children born him, but three are living—Bertie M., Flora Dell and Harrison Blake.

J. L. WIDEMAN, farmer; P. O. Medina; born in Guilford Township, Feb. 17, 1840; the second of a family of five children, all of whom attained the years of manhood and womanhood. The parents of the above were Philip and Elizabeth (Lance) Wideman. His father was named Philip, whose father was a native of Germany, and emigrated to the United States in the latter part of the last century. The father of our subject was born in Canada, near Toronto; was of a numerous family, fourteen being the number born, twelve came to maturity. The family left Canada and came to this county when it was new, the grandfather of John L. making a settlement in Guilford when his son Phillip was young, who made a commencement in that township, where three of the children were born, viz., Sarah A., Mrs. J. H. Johnson, of this township; John L. and Mary E., Mrs. J. J. Lance, of Chatham. About 1845, the family moved to Chatham, where William H., and Lorinda (Mrs. James Boyce) were born. Philip Wideman died October, 1850; his wife survived him until Aug. 15, 1868. John was a lad of 10 years when his father died. His mother subsequently married Philip Long, and with them the children lived until coming to mature years. John L. was brought up to farming, which business he turned his attention to as soon as he became his own master. Jan. 2, 1862, he was married to Laura Young, who was born March 18, 1841, in Strongsville, Cuyahoga Co., Ohio, whose parents were Alva and Lucretia (Thompson)



Young; both were natives of Vermont, and came to Chatham over forty years ago, and were the authors of eight children. After Mr. Wideman was married, he remained on the home farm. Remained in that township until 1871, when he moved to his present location in the extreme northwest corner of this township, where four townships meet, Litchfield, York, La Fayette and Chatham. Mr. Wideman has a good farm of 111 acres, a successful farmer, and the father of four interesting daughters, whose names are Ida J., Edith A., Bertha M. and Amy L. Mrs. Wideman is a member of the U. B. Church.

G. W. WALTZ, farmer; P. O. Whittlesey; born July 3, 1829, in Alleghany Co., Md., the fourth of a family of six children who were born to George R. and Catharine (Houser) Waltz. George R. was born in Maryland, and was a son of John. Catharine Houser was a daughter of David Houser. John Waltz, the grandfather of G. W., was a native of Germany, and emigrated to this country, locating in the Middle States. George R. Waltz emigrated West with his family to Wayne Co. in this State, landing Oct. 20, 1835, remaining there during the winter, and located in this township in the spring following, where he had previously purchased 110 acres, on Lot 10, in the northwest part of the township, which was unimproved, and which cost him \$5 per-acre. He had built him a cabin previous to his moving his family; the cabin was standing amidst the forest, just enough trees cut to admit standing-room for the cabin. When they drove the wagon in loaded with the family, it had to be backed out the same course it was admitted. At this time, our subject, G. W., was a lad of 7 years. Of the family now living, of his brothers and sisters, are Mary A., now Mrs. S. Wares; Sevilla, the wife of Peter Bowman; Eliza, now Mrs. W. E. Moulton; and Catharine, now Mrs. John L. Waltz—all residents of this township. George R., the father of G. W., remained upon the farm as long as he lived, as did his worthy companion. Both were members of the United Brethren Church, he being one of the first members of that society, being a member before the organization of the church, and gave liberally toward its support, donating the ground for the church and cemetery, and was a man highly esteemed in the community as an upright man and consistent Christian.

His death occurred Sept. 3, 1854; that of his wife Nov. 22, 1875. George W. left home at 21 and hired out by the month, working five years in succession for one man in Litchfield. Jan. 3, 1855, he was married to Mary Ann Bowman, who was born Dec. 6, 1835, in Chippewa Township, Wayne Co., this State; she was a daughter of John and Sarah (Traxler) Bowman; he was born in Cumberland Co., Penn., Nov. 11, 1808, she Jan. 5, 1810; they were married Dec. 18, 1828. Their deaths occurred as follows: His decease was Aug. 7, 1865; his wife's, Dec. 22, 1876. To them were born a family of twelve children, seven of whom are living. The parents of the above were members of the Christian Church for many years prior to their death. For twelve years after G. W. was married, he lived on the home farm; he came to the farm he now owns, in 1869, and has since remained. Mr. Waltz, during the late war, was among the number who volunteered their services in the defense of their country's flag, leaving his home and family to battle for the maintenance of the principles similar to those for which our forefathers contended. He enlisted, Sept. 22, 1861, in Co. B, 42d O. V. I., as private, receiving the rank of Sergeant by promotion afterward. He participated in the first battle of Vicksburg, Middle Creek, Arkansas Post, rear of Vicksburg, Jackson, Miss., and other engagements of a minor character; with the exception of a slight wound in the hand, he came through sound in body and limb, after serving out his three years' term of enlistment. Since his return home, he has been engaged in farming. He has a farm of 76 acres, upon which he has erected, since his purchase, substantial improvements in the way of buildings. He and wife are both members of the Christian Church at La Fayette Center, of which he is a Deacon, he having been a member of this order for twenty-five years. They have three children—George P., Effie, Dora and Rhoda Irene.

J. L. WIGHTMAN, farmer; P. O. Whittlesey; born in Jefferson Co., Rodman Township, N. Y., Sept. 21, 1828; is the youngest of a family of eleven children, eight of the number grew to maturity; but three of the number are living—Nancy, Mrs. Simeon Boynton, of Norwalk; Nathan and James L., of this township. The Wightmans are of Scotch descent, and, according to the tradition, seven brothers originally





came from Scotland and settled in America; from them originated the different families bearing the name. The parents of our subject were Nathan and Betsey (Osgood) Wightman. Nathan was born in Vermont April 8, 1780, and went to Herkimer Co., N. Y., where he was married, and removed West in 1833, locating in this township, where he remained until his death, which occurred in 1859. His companion died soon after his arrival to this county. James L. was but a lad of 6 when he was left motherless. He lived then with his sister Nancy the greater portion of the time until he attained his manhood, at which time he was found working out by the month. In the spring of 1850, caught the gold fever and went across the plains on foot, driving four yoke of oxen, standing guard every alternate night over their camp, as "eternal vigilance was then the price of safety," as Indians were plenty and only wanted an opportunity to do their work. After a journey of 105 days from St. Joe, Mo., they reached Hangtown, now Placerville, the place deriving its name from the number of men who had "stretched hemp" upon a certain oak tree. Mr. Wightman was one of the petitioners to the Legislature, to have it changed to its present name. Soon after his arrival, entered the mines, having expended all his surplus funds in tools and a week's provisions. In the spring he had saved \$661 clear of all expenditures. His gold was every night deposited in the bank, which consisted of a large buckskin belt strapped about him—the combination he never lost—nor was he debarred from entering at will by the modern appliance of the "time lock." Being in the water so much, his health becoming impaired, he planned a trip to Oregon to recuperate his health; sailed from San Francisco on the New World. After being on the ocean fifteen days, found themselves 1,500 miles from their starting-point, and 1,000 miles "at sea;" finally, striking the trade winds, were wafted north, at last reaching the mouth of the Columbia River; landed at John Jacob Astor's trading post, called Astoria. After a visit in and about that locality for some time, returned to White Rock Valley, four miles from Placerville, where he engaged in the grocery business. After nearly one year's association in the trade, came out with over \$1,000 net proceeds. Then resolved to return home, but, meeting with a friend, he was induced to return and engage in

the milk business; bought some cows, and in a short time sold out to his partner, with a gain of \$800. Returned home in August, 1852, on the Pacific; then on its trial trip on the mail route to New York. Upon his return home, located on the homestead now owned by his brother Nathan, where he engaged in farming. March 15, 1855, was married to Miss Bissell, daughter of E. Bissell, of Westfield, where she was born March 15, 1834, she being the second of a family of seven children, one brother and six sisters. Her mother's maiden name was Harriet Simmons. Since the marriage of Mr. Wightman, he has made several changes, but finally located at La Fayette Center, where he has 125 acres of land. Is a successful farmer, and raises the best of stock. Has 7-30 interest in twenty-one silver mining claims. Is one of the township's stanch men. Has three children—William B., Lucy M. and Charlie D. He is a member of the A. F. & A. M. at Seville. Also of Medina Chapter R. A. M.

C. WHEELER, farmer; P. O. Whittlesey. Among the prominent farmers of this township that have attained their present position solely through their own individual and personal merits is Charles Wheeler, who was born in Wiltshire, England, July 15, 1820. His parents were Richard and Elizabeth (Gasten) Wheeler. He was raised a farmer, and was early in life kept closely at home, not even having the advantages of the common school. His education was confined to the use of the plow and other agricultural implements, indiscriminately. Thus schooled to hard labor and rigorous economy, he launched out into the world with the resolve that he would some day rise above the level of common yeomanry, and press his way up to the ranks of independent husbandry. July 31, 1850, he was wedded to his worthy helpmeet, whose name was Mary Blizard, born May 12, 1820; she was a daughter of Thomas and Catharine Pierce Blizard, both natives of the same place as Mr. Wheeler. Soon after the marriage of our subject, he sailed for America, coming direct to the Buckeye State, and making his first halt in Jackson Township, Wayne Co., but remained there but a short time, when he moved to this township in 1851. When he started to housekeeping, after buying a few necessary articles, all the money he had left was 25 cents. Their outfit was neither grand nor expensive, it all being second-hand. His stove



(if such we may call it) cost \$2.50, with a leaky tea-kettle, an old bedstead, some dishes which were given them. These, with a stool and broken chair, constituted, in a general way, their outfit for housekeeping. His first purchase of land was 9 acres, which he sold soon after, and purchased 65 acres, but remained on it but nine months, making his first permanent location where he now resides. His first purchase here was 40 acres, for which he paid \$30 per acre; he next added 40 more, and yet another, and, lastly, he added 62½, making, in all, 182½ acres, which is under good improvement, and is well stocked with cattle and sheep. His farm, situated northwest of and adjoining Chippewa Lake, is ornamented by a modern style farm-

house, erected in 1880, and one of the best in the township; and, for all of these, he owes no man a dollar. His motto in life has always been, "Pay as you go," and, for the last twenty-four years, he has never run an account or made a bill with any man but what would be followed with immediate settlement; has never entered suit against any man, nor has the same been served upon him. The fruits of his marriage have been four children, but three living, viz.: Lavina, now married, and residing in Guilford Township; Richmond R. and Bradley, at home. Mr. Wheeler, though not a member of any church, is an often attendant at the house of worship, and contributes to the support of the Gospel.

### HARRISVILLE TOWNSHIP.

JOHN ANDREAS, farmer; P. O. Lodi; born in Northampton Co., Penn., Sept. 6, 1810; the eldest son and second child of a family of twelve children, six girls and six boys, born to George and Margaret Habberman, both of whom were born in Lehigh Co., Penn. At the age of 15, he went to learn the carpenter's trade; came West to Mansfield in 1837, and to this township in 1839, where he purchased 91½ acres, which was unimproved. He continued at his trade, hiring his clearing done. In 1850, he abandoned his tools, and since has confined his attention to farming; has now 201 acres of land, upon which are two sets of farm buildings, which were all erected by him. His present residence was constructed in 1874. His first marriage was with Hannah Baillet, in 1834, by whom he had one son, Josiah, now in Kosciusko Co., Ind. She died Jan. 12, 1837. His present wife was Maria Weider, born Dec. 25, 1812, in Hesse-Darmstadt, daughter of Joseph and Anna (Bessinger) Weider. She came to this country in 1835. Their marriage bears record Feb. 13, 1840, and has been crowned with five children, who are William, in La Grange Co., Ind.; Phean, now Mrs. George Stone, of Michigan; Susan, now Mrs. George L. Leashells, of Lorain Co., Ohio; Louis, of this township; Rebecca, at home, a lady of intelligence and refinement, and was, for several years, engaged as a teacher of the

young idea. Mr. Andreas cast his first vote for Andrew Jackson, and still adheres to those principles as essential to the maintenance of true government. A member of the Reformed Church, as well as the greater portion of his family, who have grown up to honor him and to perpetuate his virtues as well as his name.

H. AINSWORTH, banker, Lodi; was born at Cape Vincent, N. Y., Sept. 14, 1812; son of Avery, whose birthplace was in Fair Haven, Conn., Oct. 30, 1780, whose father's name was Henry, born in January, 1755, in Old Woodstock; who was a son of Daniel, born about the year 1724, near Plymouth. The Ainsworths are of English descent, and can trace their ancestry back to the time of the landing of the Pilgrims, in 1620. At the time of the birth of Mr. Ainsworth, the country was involved in war, and when he was but three weeks old, his parents, and all in the neighborhood, were driven off by the British and Indians, and their houses burned and stock driven away. Avery, the father of Henry, was a physician, and followed his occupation as long as he lived. To him were born four sons—Talcott, Judah T., Henry and Avery. Three of the number came West—J. T., Henry and Avery. Judah T. settled in Medina; Henry and Avery in Lodi. Mr. Ainsworth came West in 1835, to Cleveland, having with him at the time \$100 in money, which he lost through an





unfortunate investment. He then turned out to work, and, in the summer of 1837, he came to Lodi, having then \$500 in money; his brother having about double this sum, they resolved to embark in the mercantile business—first building a house, which absorbed nearly all their funds; but they succeeded in making a start, there being but a few houses in town at that time. This partnership continued about two years, when he engaged in the farming and milling business, continuing at this for two years; he then went to Huron Co. and engaged in the mercantile business, where he stayed two years and a half, when his brother died. He returned to Lodi, and engaged in business, the agreement being, that, so long as his brother continued in business at Lodi, he would never compete with him. Continuing merchandising until 1862, he sold out to Welch & White. Subsequently, he and other parties started a National Bank, he acting as Cashier, this association lasting until 1876. He then began business upon his own account, and has since been conducting it, and, notwithstanding his unfavorable beginning, he has now about 1,000 acres of land in Kansas, Missouri and this State, and a handsome competence besides. Jan. 1, 1839, he was married to Elvira Harris, born in this township, April 25, 1819, daughter of Judge Harris; by this union, two children were born, neither of them now living. He is a zealous and stanch member of the Masonic Fraternity, and a liberal Republican.

SAMUEL BAKER, farmer; P. O. Burbank; was born in Loudoun Co., Va., June 28, 1832; his parents were David and Melinda (Cocherell) Baker, the former born in 1796, in Franklin Co., Penn., the latter same place, removing to Loudoun Co., they remained until about the year 1833, when they came West to Wayne Co., Ohio, near Doylestown, remaining a short time, afterward moved across the line into Medina Co., Guilford Township, where his father purchased 80 acres of land, for which he paid \$4 per acre; he finally returned to Wayne Co., where he died Dec. 11, 1864; his mother still survives, being 68 years old. Upon the Baker side of the family, they are of English, and upon the mother's of Dutch, descent. His grandfather was a soldier in the war of 1812. Samuel learned the carpenter's trade, at which he worked for several years. At the age of 27 he became the husband of Jane Norton, who was

born in York Co., Penn., March 4, 1830, of a family of eight children born to Hugh Norton. After his marriage, he located on the farm he now owns, having now 120 acres, and is located southeast of Lodi two miles; he is a self-made man; began without means, and has accumulated what he has by hard labor; he, having been prudent in his management, has secured his present home and surroundings; he is a member of the United Brethren Church, and, though not much interested in political affairs, yet votes the Republican ticket.

W. C. BAILEY, hotel, Lodi; "Mine Host" of Lodi Hotel, who is the owner and proprietor of said institution, was born May 6, 1823, in Middletown (now Cromwell), in the State of Connecticut, and is the eldest son of William and Betsey (Combs) Bailey, to whom were born eight children, five girls and three boys. He was born in 1786, in Haddam, Conn.; he was a ship carpenter by trade, which business he followed until his death, which occurred in 1858. William C. early in life entertained a desire to follow his father's chosen vocation, and, as soon as the opportunity presented itself, he commenced learning the trade which he has since followed for the greater part of his life; he came to Cleveland November, 1861, where he worked at his trade two years; at this time there being a demand for gun-boats, he went with others into Alabama and Tennessee, where he spent the winter of 1863-64, at Bridgeport, Ala., where the Government had a force of men building vessels to go into immediate service. From this point, he went to Chattanooga, then to Decatur, remaining until the close of the war, at which time he returned to Cleveland, and to Huntington, subsequently, where he engaged at the house carpenter business, following the same for eight years. Feb. 22, 1872, he moved to Lodi, where he purchased the Lodi Hotel, and has since been the proprietor of the same, is a kind and obliging landlord, and is ever ready to gratify the wishes of his guests, and well merits the liberal patronage which he receives; was married to Harriet Worthington, born at Deep River March 23, 1826, in Middlesex Co., Conn., daughter of Alfred and Sarah Southworth. Of three children born him, two are living—Alfred W. and Edwin C. Not a member of any church or of any society, but is a man of broad and liberal views, kind-hearted and of tender sympathies, square and upright in his deal-



ings. Politically, he was formerly Democratic, but, since Buchanan's administration, has been a staunch and solid Republican.

MRS. CECILIA CRISWELL, P. O. Lodi. Mrs. Criswell was born March 21, 1838, in La Fayette Township, and is a daughter of William A. Carlton and Lydia Ann Thomas, his wife. He was born in Canada Feb. 7, 1812, and is of English descent. His wife was a native of New York, and came West with her parents when she was an infant. He came West to Portage Co. at the age of 15, where he married Miss Thomas, Nov. 11, 1836, and came to La Fayette Township, where they settled in the woods. Of twelve children born them (eight boys and four girls), ten of the number grew to manhood and womanhood. Mr. and Mrs. Carlton still reside in that township. Mrs. Criswell was first married Jan. 29, 1857, to William Lewis, who was born in this township April 12, 1832, son of Elisha and Jane (Huntsman) Lewis. Mr. Lewis was accidentally shot April 1, 1873, leaving no issue. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and a farmer by occupation. Mrs. Criswell was married to B. F. Criswell, who was born in Stark Co. Feb. 6, 1826, who was a son of John and Dorothy (Gregory) Criswell. Mr. Criswell began in business in Lodi May 5, 1879, in the merchant tailor and clothing business. Mrs. Criswell has a good farm, which she carries on, yet resides in Lodi. Mr. Criswell is a member of the Presbyterian Church, and of a good family.

DR. A. E. ELLIOT, physician, Lodi; born Aug. 15, 1851, in Port Robinson, Welland Co., Ontario, Canada, son of Andrew and Elizabeth (Darvy) Elliot. Andrew Elliot was born in Albany Co., N. Y., on the site where the city now stands. He was a son of Andrew, who was born in Aberdeen, Scotland. Elizabeth was a daughter of George A. Darvy, to whom were born four children—Barrett, Mary, Margaret and Elizabeth. Andrew Elliot, the father of our subject, was a cattle dealer, and was quite extensively engaged in the stock trade in Canada. The early boyhood of the Doctor was spent in school. At the age of 18, began reading medicine, and pursued his studies until graduation, receiving his honors in 1873, at Cleveland Medical College, when he began practice in Medina with Dr. Bean. In January, the following year, he moved to Lodi, and has

since remained. His training and education in a medical way, being of the Homeopathic school, is in accord with the major portion of the citizens in this locality, and with the Doctor's popularity as a practitioner. He is having quite an extensive and lucrative practice. Few young men in the line of Materia Medica have been more successful than he, or are honored with a larger practice. Feb. 17, 1875, was married to Ella Gilbert, born in Akron, Summit Co., daughter of Joseph and Jerusha (Pettibone) Gilbert, both of whom were natives of Hartford, Conn. Jerusha was a daughter of Theophilus and Esther (Wetmore) Pettibone. Esther was a daughter of Jabius Pettibone. To Theophilus were born eleven children. Joseph Gilbert was a soldier in the late war; was a member of Co. G, 64th O. V. I., and died of disease at Nashville.

AARON ELDRED, farmer; P. O. Lodi. Among the old and highly respected residents of this township, who have seen much of frontier life, and was among the number who, during the war of 1812, were driven from home to seek shelter from the bloodthirsty savage, is Aaron Eldred. He was born Nov. 19, 1803, in Rome, N. Y., son of Moses and Pattie (De Witt) Eldred, to whom were born twelve children, Aaron being the fifth in order of birth. The family moved to Cleveland in 1811, which was, at that time, but a trading-post—one rude tavern, kept by one Carter, who was the first settler; also, Nathan Perry, who kept a store and traded with the Indians. The war breaking out, they were driven from their home at Dover, where they had located, they fleeing to Newbury for refuge. His father was out in the war, and was shot in the arm by an Indian, which rendered him unfit for further duty during the continuation of the war. His mother, in the meantime and afterward, kept tavern to maintain the family while at Lockport. He remembers being at the river, one day, and helping to transport some of Hull's prisoners across the river in a canoe, who, when across, said to him: "Son, we have no money; but, if we could get hold of Hull, we would use his hide for razor strops!" After the family left Lockport, they moved to North Ridgeville, where his father kept public house. At the age of 15, Aaron left home to "paddle his own canoe." He first learned the tanner's trade, at which he worked three years; then went to New York, where he





worked as common laborer on the canal; afterward returned to this State, where he was married to Louisa Emmons, who was born in Hartford, Conn.; she was a daughter of Harris Emmons. After marriage, he located at Elyria, where he purchased 60 acres of land in the woods, where he remained until 1838, when he located in this township, purchasing 101 acres, which has since been his constant home. He was formerly a Democrat, but, the question of slavery perplexing him, he could not harmonize it with his construction of Democracy, and has since cast his lot with the Republicans. Eight children have been the fruits of his marriage; all grew to maturity. Three of his sons served in the late rebellion—Jackson, in the 100-day service; Columbus and Danford served through the entire struggle, and were true and valiant soldiers. Danford is now an engineer on the Ft. Wayne Railroad; Wesley, in Michigan; Jackson, on Kelley's Island; Columbus died at Washington; Dama, now Mrs. H. Palmer, of Green Springs; Rosilla, Mrs. George Swift; La Fayette, a bachelor, and at home.

WARREN ELMER, retired, Lodi; was born Dec. 3, 1811, in Otsego Co., N. Y., son of Warren and Sarah (Johnson) Elmer. He was born in 1788 in New York, and died about the year 1818, leaving his son without a home. At the age of 14, his first business adventure was to borrow \$10 of a friend, which he invested in medicine, and peddled. He commenced learning the shoemaker's trade, which, on account of the loss of an eye, he abandoned. In 1833, at the age of 21, he came West on the Erie Canal, reaching this township May 12, 1833. Began working out and has worked at 25 cents per day, and paid it out again to post a letter. Taking Mr. Elmer's life through, he has had quite a checkered career. July 10, 1836, he was married to Margaret Park, who was born in Green Township, Beaver Co., Penn., Nov. 12, 1811, daughter of John and Sarah (Patterson) Park, who came to this State in 1818. Came first to Wayne Co., and then to this county in 1830. He died in this county in 1864, she in 1876. Soon after Mr. Elmer was married, he moved into the hotel at Lodi. After running this a short time, he moved to the West part of the township and engaged in farming. Then followed teaming for several years. Afterward purchased a farm, which he subsequently traded for a stock of goods at

Crawford's Corners, remaining here about five years. He then engaged in the show business of the panorama order, which he plied for three years. In 1861, he bought the Myer Hotel, and ran the same until the fall of 1870. During this time, he ran a hack and mail line from Wooster to O'Leary's; at the same time carried on a livery stable. Sold out his hotel in 1870, and bought the place where Albert Harris now lives. Kept it but a short time, then sold out and built the house he now occupies in Lodi. He has since been retired from active business. Has been a stirring and bustling personage, sharp and shrewd, keen and quick sighted in a horse trade, always having an eye to the "main chance." As a hotel proprietor, his table was always well furnished, and he was noted as being an excellent provider, and, whatever the traveler might have to say against Mr. Elmer personally, he could never find fault with his table. Is a member of the Masonic Fraternity and a Democrat in sentiment, and has been from Jackson's time, and will ever remain true to those principles. Of seven children born him, but one is now living—Warren, born April 10, 1841. He was married, March 12, 1865, to Virginia M. White, who was born in Westfield Township Dec. 3, 1844. She was a daughter of Earl and Mary Ann (Mallory) White. Warren has three children—Katie, Maud and Morgan.

CHARLES FENSTERMAKER, farmer; P. O. Lodi. The above-mentioned gentleman was born Aug. 8, 1816, in Bedford Co., Penn., being the second child of a family of ten children who were born to his parents, John and Elizabeth (Smouse) Fenstermaker. Charles emigrated to Trumbull Co., Ohio, with his parents, when a lad of 8 years. His grandfather's name was Dewald. His wife was from Germany, whose services were sold, upon her arrival in this country, to pay her passage money. Charles' youth and early manhood were spent in hard labor. His father settling in the woods, much labor was required to prepare the land for cultivation. His father died in 1840, leaving the farm in his charge. He remained on the same and cared for his mother until Feb. 19, 1846, when he united his fortunes with Deliah Moyer, born in Pennsylvania, daughter of Gabriel and Hannah (Andrews) Moyer, who came West when she was quite young. Until 1853, Mr. F. has lived in Trumbull (now Mahoning).



Since that time, he has resided in this township. Has now 196 acres of land, which he has been enabled to attain by laborious application to his business and the exercise of frugal habits. Began with his hands and two shillings, which his father gave him. He worked hard and faithfully several years at low wages, the accumulation of which enabled him to make a purchase of a few acres, which was subsequently augmented by other purchases at different times, until he acquired what he now has, and with it the esteem of his neighbors and associates. Seven children have been born to him in the following order, viz.: Melissa (now Mrs. Levi Dague, of Chatham Township), John W. (this township), Gabriel F. (in Homer), Alice (Mrs. Dr. Britton, of Spencer Township), Augusta (Mrs. Joseph Rice, of Chatham), Hannah E. and Elsie May (at home). Is a member of the Reformed Church, his wife enjoying the same relation. In politics, he is liberal, yet adheres mostly to Jeffersonian principles.

JOHN W. FENSTERMAKER, farmer; P. O. Lodi; was born in North Jackson Township, Mahoning Co., this State, Jan. 11, 1849; son of Charles and Delia Fenstermaker, who are among the highly respected citizens of the county. John was raised to farming; remained with his parents until he was a free man. Jan. 7, 1873, he was joined by the laws of the commonwealth to love, cherish and maintain Miss Nancy J. Woods, who was born in this county in 1851, whose parents were William and Catharine (Berkey) Woods, both from Pennsylvania. Since his marriage, he has been a resident of the place he now occupies, and is engaged in harassing the soil for his maintenance. He has three children—Myrtle, Maudie and Willie.

HIRAM A. FULLER, farmer; P. O. Burbank; was born in Onondaga Co., N. Y., Nov. 22, 1830; was the second of a family of six children; three of the number grew to maturity. His parents were Augustus and Eunice Perkins. He was born June 28, 1804, in Bristol, Conn. He was a son of John Fuller. The Fullers and Perkinses are of English descent. Eunice Perkins was born Feb. 28, 1802, and a daughter of Elias Perkins, whose wife was a Hittcock. Augustus Fuller emigrated to this State from Connecticut in 1836, and located in Wayne Co. at a place called Jackson, in Canaan Township, where he purchased 80 acres. Here the elder

Fuller resided until his death, which occurred June 28, 1843. His business had been for several years in traveling for the Seth Thomas Clock Company in Connecticut. Hiram was but 12 years of age when his father died; was then raised by his uncle. After becoming of age, he learned the carpenter's trade, which he worked at some time. Afterward, he was engaged with Howard, Peebles & Company, and traveled for them four years. He then purchased 83 acres of land in Canaan Township, where he lived three years; then moved to Erie Co. February, 1860, purchased the farm he now owns, situated in the southeast part of Harrisville Township. He was twice married, first Feb. 12, 1857, to Amanda High, born in Springfield, Ohio, in 1833, daughter of John High, whose wife was a Sailor by name. Mr. High is of Wayne Township, Wayne Co., parents of Dutch descent, and from Lancaster Co. Penn. She died Dec. 28, 1869, leaving three children, two boys and one girl—David B., Sarah J., dead, and Frank. Nov. 2, 1872, was married to Mary J. Burns, born in Canaan Township, Wayne Co., Nov. 28, 1843, daughter of Edwin and Martha (McCreary) Burns. Has one child—Myra. He is a member of the United Brethren Church—wife, of the Presbyterian Church. His father lost his property by bailing, and Hiram began poor. He has now a good farm of 100 acres, and one of the best farm residences in the township, and an excellent farmer.

ELI M. FRARY, farmer; P. O. Burbank; son of Orange Wells Frary, who was born in Vermont in 1801, in the month of May, and emigrated West with his father, Elihu, who located in East Union Township, Wayne Co., Ohio, when Orange was 12 years of age. Elihu Frary, having been a man of business and considerable means, he became embarrassed in Vermont, by bailing the Sheriff, and, having it to pay, sought to better his fortune by migrating Westward. He was a blacksmith by trade. After several years' residence in Wayne Co., he moved to this township, locating in the south part, where he purchased 120 acres. Orange W. was married in 1828, to Jerusha Perkins, who was born in 1803, in New York State; her father's name was Josiah; the Perkins family are known as early settlers. Orange had learned the stone-cutter's occupation, which he worked at some time, assisting in preparing the stone for the Norwalk Court House. After his marriage, he lo-





ated in Huron Co.; lived there four years; returning to Wayne Co., where he purchased 130 acres "in the woods," where he built him a cabin and began clearing up his land; remaining here until 1848, when he located on his father's place, now owned by Eli M.: he died Sept. 1, 1852; was a consistent member in the M. E. Church, to which he was much attached, and gave the timber for building the first church erected in Burbank. Eli was born in Wayne Co., April 19, 1840, of a family of eleven, ten of whom grew to maturity. October, 1862, he enlisted in Co. D, 120th O. V. I.; was discharged, on account of disability, December, 1864; was at the siege of Vicksburg, and other important engagements. April 19, 1868, was wedded to Hattie Spiker, born in Wayne Co., Feb. 24, 1846, daughter of Jonathan and Elizabeth (Wiler) Spiker; both natives of Pennsylvania, and now reside in Wayne Co. Mr. Frary is a member of the United Brethren in Christ; has been Class-leader for several years.

ARCH T. FEAZEL, farmer; P. O. Lodi; was born in Wayne Township, Wayne Co., Ohio, March 15, 1818. He was the second of a family of twelve children, all of whom grew to manhood and womanhood. His parents were William and Catharine (Clarke) Feazel, of Virginia stock, but, tracing back, are of Scotch and German extraction. William Feazel came West with his father, Barnard, about the year 1809, they locating in Wayne Co., entering land one-half mile north of Wooster, which was composed of a log tavern and one or two cabins. At the outbreak of the war of 1812, William Clarke, who was the grandfather of Arch, on the side of his mother, enlisted, and was made Drum Major, and served in that capacity through the war. Barnard Feazel was also a participant; he drove a four-horse team; Arch T. remembers of hearing him speak of hauling off the dead upon his wagon, where they were buried in long trenches. Arch T. made his father's house his home until after he was 30 years of age. During the early part of his life, he was engaged in carpentry. Jan. 24, 1856, he was united by marriage to Clara Hastings, born in Jefferson Co., N. Y., in 1825, and is a daughter of Sidney Hastings, who was born in Massachusetts, and emigrated West in 1843, locating in Guilford Township, where he purchased land two miles and a half east of Seville; subsequently moved to Westfield Township, where

he now lives. Feb. 22, 1872, he celebrated his golden wedding. Mr. Hastings has always been prominently identified with the Baptist Church, officiating as Deacon for many years; he is a strong advocate of the principles of temperance. Mrs. Feazel was for thirteen years a successful teacher. After Mr. Feazel was married, he settled in Wayne Township, Wayne Co., remaining there until 1874, when he moved to this township, locating in Lodi, where they lived until 1879, when he purchased the farm he now owns, situated north of Lodi about one mile and a half, and is composed of 107 acres, and is well improved, and a good body of land. They have two children—Clara J. and Ella L., the latter now Mrs. Dell Rogers. Mr. Feazel is a self-made man, and is affiliated with the Republican party.

A. W. FULLERTON, insurance; P. O. Lodi; was born March 23, 1834; son of John and Julia (Shriver) Fullerton, to whom were born ten children. A. W. being the eighth; all of them came to maturity; the first death occurred at the age of 32. John was born Sept. 11, 1791, in Franklin Co., Penn., and was married, Nov. 7, 1820, to the above-mentioned lady, who was born in Washington Co., Md., Nov. 18, 1799. Her father's name was Henry, and was born in Maryland; his wife was Mary Ann Harbaugh. A. W.'s grandfather's name was John; he was a native of Ireland, and emigrated to Maryland and settled near Chambersburg. John Fullerton, for several years ere he emigrated West, was superintendent of some iron manufactory in Pennsylvania. In May, 1844, the family emigrated West; located in Milton Township, Wayne Co.; purchased a farm; he remained until 1857, when he sold out and came to Westfield Township, and engaged in farming. April 3, 1866, the family moved to Lodi, where he died the year following, Dec. 9, 1867. For twenty years previous to his demise, he was blind, and A. W. being the youngest boy, his duty was at home to care for his parents. In 1860, he began in business for himself, and, for twenty years past, has been engaged with the Ohio Farmers' Insurance Company, one of the staunch firms in the West. He is one of their most efficient representatives. The length of time he has been with the company fully attests the appreciation they have of him. April 12, 1860, he was married to Mary Ann Luce, born in Wayne Co.



She died Feb. 5, 1865, aged 24 years and 10 months. Dec. 12, 1872, he was married to Katie Fasig, born Oct. 4, 1841, in Wayne Co., Ohio, daughter of John and Eliza Ann (Rickel) Fasig. Mr. Fullerton is a member of Harrisville Lodge, A. F. & A. M., No. 137.

WILLIAM F. FORD, Pension Clerk; Washington, D. C.; was born on the Emerald Isle, County Down, June 22, 1833, only son of John A. and Harriet (Hamilton) Ford, who were born March 12, 1778, and Aug. 23, 1790, respectively; are yet living. April 4, 1851, William set sail from Belfast, and, after a voyage of twenty-six days, he landed on American soil. September, same year, he came West to Ashland Co., making this his place of abode until 1855, when he came to Lodi. Up to this time, he was engaged in farming, not being afraid to labor. His hands were never idle. May 17, 1853, he was wedded to Lucinda Merryfield, who was born in Craftsbury, Vt., August, 1823. She died March 16, 1868, and her remains now repose in Lodi Cemetery. By her side lie her two daughters, Ellen A. and Effie E., the latter having attained 18 years of age at the time of her death. Had been attending Oberlin College, and only lacked two months of graduation. April 18, 1861, he was the first man in Medina Co. to respond to the nation's call, joining the 8th O. V. I., Co. K, for three months. Before his time expired, he re-enlisted in a regiment, May 26, and served until his discharge, March 2, 1863, which was on account of a wound received at the battle of Antietam, being shot in the hip with steel ramrod, and for several years after his return home he was unable to walk without the aid of crutches. In 1870, he was appointed as census enumerator, and had charge of five townships. March, 1871, through the influence of his many friends, obtained a situation as Pension Clerk at Washington, D. C., and has since been engaged in that city in the line of his duty, yet regards Medina Co., Harrisville Township, his home, showing his devotion to his friends and the town where the ashes of his loved ones sleep, by returning annually to vote, and, unlike the majority of the mass who hail from Erin's Green Isle, he is a true and loyal Republican, and has ever manifested his fidelity to the emblem of his adopted country. He has never recovered from the injuries he received at Antietam, the Government recognizing his disability, having him enrolled

upon their list as a life pensioner, setting apart to his individual use \$283 per year. Was formerly, before receiving his injuries, a man of superior strength and of splendid physique. Free and open in his manner, he is generous and public-spirited; his frank and manly manner has secured him a host of friends and admirers. In social life in Washington, he bears a prominent part. In Masonry, he is prominently identified, being officially connected with the Lodge, Chapter and Commandery of that city.

L. M. GRANT, farmer; P. O. Lodi; was born in the town of Smithville, Chenango Co., N. Y., July 22, 1810; son of Elihu and Amy (Marsh) Grant; the former being a native of Massachusetts, while the latter was born in Vermont. The Grant family are of Scotch descent, and came West in 1831. At the age of 19, Loring began learning the shoemaker's trade, and since 1831, he has been a constant resident of this county. July 4, 1833, he was united in wedlock to Sallie Rogers, who was born December, 1811, in Smithville, same county and State as her husband, whose parents were James and Betsey (Marsh) Rogers. The fruits of this union are Julius A., now of Eden Co., Mich.; Francis O., now the wife of George Palmer, and Harriet (Mrs. William Drake). For several years after Mr. Grant came to this county, he was busily engaged at his bench, seeking to clothe the pedal extremities of his neighbors, and administer "lasting" benefits to the "soles" of his fellow-man. For several years past, he has abandoned his bench and "kit," and given his attention to his little farm. While his early school advantages were meager indeed, yet he has since his school-boy days, accustomed himself to continued reading and study, which have resulted in his being among the well-informed citizens of to-day. Has never been eager after this world's goods, being the rather content to have enough, than to "heap up" for others to absorb or squander, and has endeavored in his walk and life, to harmonize his religion with his acts in life, both socially and politically. During the existence of the anti-slavery party, he was in full accord with them, his sympathies being strongly enlisted in favor of the down-trodden race, and never failed to befriend them whenever opportunity afforded, and now that their shackles have fallen, his farther desire is to see them enjoy their





rights, such as the Constitution guarantees all its citizens.

ISAAC W. GATES, farming; P. O. Lodi; is a native of Medina Co.; son of Martin and Barbara (Amsbaugh) Gates. Martin was born Aug. 17, 1805, in Washington Co., Penn., and emigrated West, to Richland Co., when a young man, where he subsequently became the husband of Miss Amsbaugh, who was born in Richland Co. After their marriage, they located in Guilford Township, this county, where he had previously purchased land; here they located in the woods, and from that time forward have been constant residents of the township. To them were born five children, among whom was Isaac W., whose birth occurred July 21, 1842. Farming being his father's occupation, Isaac's youth and early manhood were spent at school, and assisting his father in the home duties. At the age of 20, volunteered his services in defense of his country's flag, enlisting in Co. I. 103d O. V. I., and served from Aug. 11, 1862, until the termination of the war, and was engaged in many of the hard-fought battles of the war; was in the 3d Division, and 23d Army Corps, and accompanied Sherman as far as Atlanta, thence with Gen. Thomas back to Nashville, to look after Gen. Hood's interests, finally joining Sherman's army at Goldsboro, N. C. During his entire term of service, was only absent from his command one week. Since his return home, has been engaged in farming. January, 1866, he was married to Mary Carlton, who is likewise a native of the county, born in La Fayette Township Aug. 26, 1847, and daughter of William Carlton, one of the prominent citizens and early settlers of that township. Two children, Eva L. and Lula H., are the fruits of their union.

W. B. GAYLORD, wagon-maker, Lodi; is among the thrifty mechanics of Medina Co., and, since 1852, has been identified with the mechanical, as well as the general interests of Harrisville Township. He was born July 8, 1827, in Portage Co., Ohio. His father was twice married. William being the second child of a family of four children born to his father's first wife, whose maiden name was Cynthia Bigelow, to whom he was married Jan. 14, 1819. Josiah, the father of William B., was born in Middletown, Conn., about the year 1795, and made his advent into this State contemporaneous with the war of 1812, and was among

those worthy pioneers whose strong arms and willing hands have leveled the forests and braved the hardships that have secured to their posterity the improvements of to-day. William was raised to maturity in Portage Co.; remained with the family until he arrived at maturity; then learned the wagon-maker's trade, and, in 1852, he left the place of his nativity and cast his lot with the people of Medina Co., locating at Lodi, where he associated in business with H. Selders, of this place, under the firm name of Selders & Gaylord, which partnership existed about five years. Since that time has conducted business on his own account. Oct. 10, 1853, he was wedded to Sarah Ann Gassan, a native of New York, born in 1831, and came West with her parents about 1832. Have one child—Mabel M. Mr. Gaylord's father was an old-line Whig of the staunchest type. His son has always been affiliated with the Republican party, and has served the township as Clerk for fifteen consecutive years; upon his last election, he declined further service. Has also served as Judge of Election for many years; and, since he was old enough to exercise his right of suffrage, has never missed an election.

NELSON HARRIS, merchant, Lodi; is a grandson of Judge Joseph Harris, who settled in this township prior to the war of 1812. Here upon the same ground that his grandfather purchased, was born Nelson Harris, the only child born to Albert and Evira Harris, whose birth occurred Sept. 11, 1831. Nelson was raised to farming, which he followed until 1865, when he turned his attention to mercantile pursuits, under the firm name of White & Harris; this partnership existed one year and a half; then M. E. Mihills bought out Mr. White; then the business was continued on under the firm name of Harris & Mihills, which partnership lasted until 1875, when Mr. Harris bought his interest and carried on the business until April, 1879, when he moved to the place he now occupies, where he keeps a general stock of goods, including millinery. Feb. 22, 1855, was married to F. E. Jenne, who was born in this county, Litchfield Township, and is a daughter of A. S. Jenne, who was one of the early settlers in the county. By this union he had four children—Joseph W. (who, at his birth, had eleven grandparents), Rachel J., Adeline and "Bert." Is now serving as one of the



Directors of the Ohio Farmers' Insurance Company, which position he has filled for several successive years. His farm, which is adjoining the town, he keeps stocked with cattle, and farms successfully. He is a member of the A. F. & A. M. Lodge, No. 137, and, like his father, he is true to the principles which Gen. Jackson advocated.

ALBERT HARRIS, retired farmer; P. O. Lodi. Prominently identified with the history of this township is the Harris family, whose name it now bears. Albert, whose name heads this sketch and also whose portrait appears in this work, was a son of Judge Joseph Harris, who was born in Middletown, Conn., and emigrated West to this State in 1801, locating in Randolph Township, Portage Co., where he was married, Dec. 20, 1807, to Rachel Sears, who was born Dec. 22, 1792, in Connecticut. By this union, two children were born—Albert and Elvira. His birth occurred Sept. 20, 1808, and three years afterward moved with his parents to this township, his father having been out the year previous and made the selection and built a house for the reception of the family, which spot is where the town now stands. Here amidst the early and exciting scenes attending the Indian war, Albert Harris was reared. The settlements being far distant from each other, his early associates and playmates were the dusky youths of the red men, who roamed in lawless freedom over these hills and dales. As could be reasonably expected, school privileges were few, and Albert was not schooled within college walls, but received his "rudiments" within the confines of a log cabin, with its rude paraphernalia. At the age of 18, his father's health failing, the care of the farm devolved upon him. Feb. 15, 1830, he was joined in wedlock to Adeline DeWitt, who was born in Westminster, Vt. She died Feb. 21, 1873, leaving one child—Nelson. Since Mr. Harris' first arrival in this township, he has been a constant resident, and during a residence of nearly seventy years among the varied scenes, from the earliest to the present, he has ever maintained that uprightness and dignity of manhood that have been characteristic of him as a neighbor and valued citizen. Farming has been the business of his life. For several years was engaged in stock-trading, buying mostly for Eastern dealers. Oct. 28, 1874, he was married to Mrs. Lovica Parsons, whose maiden name was

Thayer. She was a native of Massachusetts. The Harris family trace their nationality to Wales, whence emigrated three brothers, who settled in Middletown, Hartford and New York, respectively, and it is supposed that from these brothers, have sprung the Harris family.

J. W. HARRIS, clerk, Lodi; is of the fourth generation of the Harris family, beginning with Judge Joseph Harris; Joseph W. is the son of Nelson, who was the son of Albert, who was the son of Joseph, the pioneer of Harrisville Township. Joseph W. was born Oct. 1, 1859, in Lodi, and is the eldest of a family of four children born to Nelson Harris. Since attending school, he has been clerking in his father's store. June, 1879, he was married to May Loomis, only daughter of T. G. Loomis, one of the prosperous merchants and successful farmers in the township. One fact is worthy of especial mention, in connection with this brief sketch; at the time of Joseph's birth he was blessed with eleven living grandparents.

A. A. JOLINE, agent and farmer; P. O. Lodi. The Joline family are of French extraction. Henry, the father of Aaron, was born in Orange Co., N. Y., in 1797, and emigrated to this State about the year 1820, locating in Chatham. His father's name was John, and was born in France, and emigrated to the United States not far from the middle of the seventeenth century, finally locating in Princeton, N. J., where Henry, his son, was born. The elder Joline was a minister, graduated at Princeton, N. J., and for forty years held the pastorate of one church—Presbyterian—and was an able divine. Henry, the father of Aaron, was a great hunter, and the woods and his gun had a greater fascination for him than the ax or agricultural implements. His wife was Eleanor Parsons, whose family were early settlers. Aaron's mother died when he was quite young, and he was then thrown upon his own resources early in life, without a friend or advisor. School advantages being of a limited character, working at whatever he could get to do at 25 cents per day, and by the month, he continued on until he obtained means to better his condition. April 20, 1853, he was joined in wedlock to Elizabeth J. Lewis, who was born in this township Feb. 1, 1835; she is a daughter of Elisha and Jane (Huntsman) Lewis. After Mr. Joline was married they moved to Chatham Township, where





they lived until 1867, at which time they moved to Black Hawk Co., Iowa, where they lived until 1872, then returned to Lodi. Mr. Joline has an excellent stock farm of 320 acres near Waterloo, in Black Hawk Co., all of which is improved, and is now rented, bringing its owner a good per cent. Mr. J. has also choice property in town, which is snug, neat and attractive. He is a member of A., F. & A. M., Harrisville Lodge, No. 137, and is J. W. of said body, and agent for the White Sewing Machine.

JOSEPH W. LINNELL, farmer; P. O. Lodi; was born in Hartford Township, Licking Co., Oct. 14, 1838, the eldest of a family of three children, who were born to Joshua P. and Hannah B. Sampson. He was born in Licking Co., Granville Township, Dec. 11, 1809. His father's name was Joshua also. He is of the Linnell family who came from Granville, Mass., and located in Licking Co., in the early part of that county's history, mention of whom is made in the "Historical Collections of Ohio." Mrs. Linnell, the mother of Joseph W., was born in Newark, Essex Co., N. J., Feb. 14, 1816. She was a daughter of Benjamin Sampson, who was from Pennsylvania, and was a hatter by trade; afterward became a farmer, then settled in the West. He died Dec. 12, 1861. He was born in 1770. His wife (the mother of Mrs. L.) was Abigail Ball before marriage; she was born in 1775, in New Jersey, and married in New York, and to them were born twelve children, Mrs. Linnell being the fourth in order of birth; but six of the number came to maturity. After Joshua P. was married, he settled in Licking Co., where he was born, making this his home until 1842, when he moved to Brunswick, this county. He was a trader, and dealt in patent rights, and was a successful manipulator in this direction. He died in March, 1870, in Pittston, Penn., while on a business trip. Joseph W. was raised at home and had excellent school advantages afforded him, attending the common district school, and, afterward, Heidelberg College at Tiffin. After leaving school, his time for several years, was spent in seeing the sights and sowing his wild grain. Jan. 18, 1870, he was married to Clare Partridge, who is a native of Licking Co., born in November, 1843, a daughter of David and Laura (Gale) Partridge, who were natives of Vermont. In April, 1872,

Joseph moved to the farm he now owns, situated two miles southeast of Lodi, consisting of 85 acres. Three children have been born to him, who are Mary, Mabel and Harry. For a young man, Joseph is much interested in political matters, and would think more highly of a man that would vote the Democratic ticket than one who was of his own political faith, and would not exercise his right of suffrage! Has served the township as Trustee for two years, and is enterprising and thorough in his business transactions.

TIMOTHY G. LOOMIS, merchant. One of the prominent and influential citizens of Harrisville Township was born in La Fayette Township, Medina Co., Jan. 28, 1834. He was the child of Milo and Lucy Ann (Greenly) Loomis. His father was born in Litchfield Co., Conn., in November, 1802. He emigrated West with his family in 1833, locating in La Fayette Township, Medina Co. At a later date, he removed into the Harrisville settlement, and located permanently. In common with nearly all of the other settlers, his store of earthly goods was rather limited. At the age of 13, young Timothy, the subject of this sketch, after having been given an education such as the settlement afforded, was indentured out, and, after serving a term of three years as clerk in the village store, he hired out to others, and gathered experience and showed business tactics. At the age of 21, he commenced business on his own responsibility, at Homer, having Mr. H. Ainsworth as a special partner. He remained in Homer two years, and then returned to Lodi, entering into the business firm of Mr. Ainsworth, and became one of its regular partners. This lasted for two years, and then, he, in the fall of 1856, embarked in a business venture of his own in Lodi, continuing in it until the present day. His portrait will be found in another part of this work. On March 27, 1855, Mr. Loomis was married to Susan Richards, who was born March 25, 1836, in Connecticut, and is a daughter of Chauncey and Susan (Root) Richards. Of this union there were two children. May C., now Mrs. J. W. Harris; and Milo R., who died at the age of 13 years. Mr. Loomis and his wife are members, in full connection, of the Congregational Church of Lodi. He is also a member of the Masonic Order, belonging to Harrisville Lodge of F. & A. M. In the fall of 1861, he enlisted in Co. G, 42d



O. V. I. (Garfield's regiment) as private. He was soon elected First Lieutenant, and served until July, 1862, when, on account of failing health, he returned to his home in Lodi. Two brothers, Aaron M. and Finney R., served in the Union armies from the beginning of the war until its close. Another brother is now Judge of Common Pleas, of Cook Co., Ill. Although Mr. Loomis has most of his life-time been engaged in commercial pursuits, his inclinations are decidedly for farming. He owns one of the finest farms in Medina Co., being located a mile west of Lodi, and embracing 375 acres of fertile land. He was the first to introduce short-horn cattle in Harrisville Township. The Loomis family traces its ancestors back to Joseph Loomis, who came over with the Pilgrim Fathers in the Mayflower. He has at all times been prominently identified with all educational, religious and social movements, and has always taken an energetic hand to promote the welfare of the community and the country.

MOSES A. MIHILLS, farmer and stock-raiser; P. O. Lodi; is among the worthy young farmers and representative stockmen in this township; was born Sept. 29, 1846; a son of William L. and Caroline (Frost) Mihills; he was born in Canada Nov. 15, 1816; son of Moses, to whom were born a family of ten children—William L., Washington, Norris, Uriah, Darius, Sylvester, Charlotte, Mary E., Alice and Amanda. To Aaron Frost were born Caroline, Harriet, Matilda, William. John; by Mr. Frost's second marriage were born Aaron, Rosetta, Charlotte and Sarah. William L., the father of our subject, came West in 1839; first located in Chatham, where he lived until 1847, when he purchased 50 acres in this township, where Moses now lives. To him were born four children—Merick A., now a manufacturer at Painesville; Merib A., in Ashtabula Co., the wife of William Main; Lee K., now in Osborne Co., Kan., an attorney at law. Moses A. was reared to farming, and has always remained on the farm. Nov. 29, 1866, married Elizabeth Brinker, born in Westmoreland Co., Penn., Jan. 17, 1844; daughter of Jacob and Margaret (Poorman) Brinker; her father's name was Jacob Poorman, to whom were born Leonard, Jacob, Elizabeth, Catharine, Margaret and George. To Jacob Brinker were born George, Catharine, Henry, Mary, Elizabeth R., Abram, Sarah C., John S.; all living but

Abram and Sarah. The family came West in 1856, locating in Chatham Township. Jacob Brinker was killed in July, 1876, being 67 years old. His wife now resides in Ashtand Co. with her children. Since Mr. Mihills' marriage, he has been a resident of the farm; has 161 acres of land. Since 1875, has been engaged in breeding and raising high-grade and thoroughbred short-horns and Berkshire swine. His cattle are known as the Woodland herd, and he is doing what he can to encourage the introduction and growth of fine stock in his township and county. Mr. Mihills' brother Merick was a Lieutenant in the 178th O. V. I., and served through the greater part of the war. Mr. Mihills is enterprising, and deserving of success. He has two children—Ida M., born July 9, 1869, and Lyman U., born Sept. 13, 1872. Mr. M. is a Republican and a worthy citizen of the township.

PERRY MUNSON, farmer; P. O. Lodi; was born on the farm he now owns May 4, 1830. His grandfather, Timothy Munson, emigrated West with his family prior to the Indian war, and subsequently located in this township upon a tract of land now owned by E. C. Loomis. His first place of stopping was at Wooster, where he remained one season only, then made his final settlement in Harrisville Township. Perry was a son of Samuel R. and Maria (Stockwell) Munson. Samuel was born at the close of the last century, in Vermont, and emigrated with his parents when a youth to Wayne Co. He was married to Maria S. Sept. 10, 1820, and soon after made the settlement where Perry now resides, and was one of the pioneers of the neighborhood. He died Nov. 9, 1842, aged 43 years; his wife Jan. 14, 1879. Timothy Munson died Aug. 25, 1845, aged 78 years; his wife, Abigail, May 5, 1828, aged 61 years. Perry was married, at the age of 25, to Rebecca Dawson; she died in 1856, leaving one child—Henry D. March 4, 1850, he was married to his present wife, whose maiden name was Emily Rogers, born March 17, 1835, in this township; daughter of Perez and Polly (Phelps) Rogers, who was born in New York Aug. 24, 1800, she in Jefferson Co., same State, Jan. 22, 1811, and came West at the age of 25; to them were born four children; Perez died Sept. 1, 1838. Mrs. Rogers' mother's name prior to her marriage was Cynthia Lee, who married Roger Phelps, the





grandfather of Mrs. Perry Munson. But three of Perry's brothers and sisters now survive—Polly, now Mrs. John Poe, of California; Elizabeth, now Mrs. E. Chapinan, of Wisconsin, and Lucy, Mrs. E. F. Miner, of Homer Township. Mr. Munson has four children, viz., De Witt, Herman C., Vernon and Altha J.

S. C. MUNSON, stock-raiser and farmer; was born March 24, 1825, in Wayne Co., Ohio, the third child of a family of seven children, born to Henry and Mary (Cutler) Munson. The Munsons are of English stock, and were among the early settlers in Connecticut. Isaac Munson, the grandfather of our subject, was a soldier under Gen. Washington, during the Revolutionary war, entering the ranks at the age of 15. Henry Munson was born in 1796, and came West to Wayne Co., in 1816, and was married, May 15, 1821, to Miss Cutler, and for nearly fifty years lived happily together, and raised a family, who have done honor to their parentage. He passed to his rest Dec. 1, 1861; his wife survived him until May 4, 1872. Samuel did not leave home until 23 years of age, March 16, 1848, when he was married to Jane Hughes, born in Wayne Co., Franklin Township, May 20, 1826, daughter of John and Jane (Fleniken) Hughes; he was born in Fayette Co., Penn., March 13, 1785; she was born in Greene Co., Penn., and came West with her husband in 1816, locating in Wayne Co., Ohio. The Hughes are descendants from the Emerald Isle, and, like the Munson family, were among the early settlers in Wayne Co. John Hughes settled in Franklin and was for some length of time Justice of the Peace; he died April, 1861. For three years after Mr. Munson was married, he lived on his father's farm; since 1851, he has been a resident of this township, and is engaged in farming and stock-raising, sheep being the kind he deals in most, and is successful as such, as well as his general farming; he has 500 acres of land, which compares favorably with any in the township. Of seven children born him, but six are living—Maria, Sophronia, Emma, Ezra, Cephas and Matie. Democratic in sentiment, yet not a partisan, he has always been independent of sects and denominations, and, though not at war with them, yet prefers to be unbiased and untrammelled by any strictures as such might impose. His aim has been to assist and co-operate with all measures that conduce to the public good, honestly

and fearlessly laboring to promote good morals and encourage fallen humanity. His benevolence and generosity are commensurate with his means, and he is among the staunch citizens of the county.

ALEXANDER MAIN, farmer; P. O. Lodi; is a native of Scotland, born May 13, 1807. His parents were William and Margaret (Reed) Main, to whom were born thirteen children, seven boys and six girls. Alexander was raised to farming, and lived at home until he was 18 years of age, when he decided to learn the stonemason's trade. At the age of 20, he was married to Elizabeth Wilson, who was born July 22, 1809, daughter of James and Elizabeth (Richie) Wilson. In 1835, Mr. and Mrs. Main bade old Scotland good-bye, and embarked for America to cast their lots with the Western pioneers, arriving in July. They came to Medina Co., and located in Chatham Township, where he purchased 100 acres of land for \$350. No improvement had been made; "not a stick was amiss." They erected a rough log cabin, 12x12 feet; parlor, kitchen, hall, dining-room and up stairs were all embraced in one. With some poles and an anger a bed was constructed, and some pegs inserted into blocks, afforded them chairs, and, with a few dishes they had brought with them from Scotland, they managed to make a showing of furniture, which, simple as it was, enabled them to make a commencement. They visited their neighbors, though distant, guided by the "blazed" trees. He subsequently added to his original purchase 75 acres, making 175 in all. In 1870, he sold 100 acres at \$50 per acre, and the remaining at \$35, and moved to Medina, purchasing 30 acres within the corporation. Disposing of it in 1873, he moved to Harrisville; located on a small place three-quarters of a mile north of Lodi, where he and wife are enjoying the evening of their life in quiet and happiness. Of eight children born them, six are living—William, now of Ashtabula; John, in Down; Henry, traveling; Elizabeth, Mrs. George Coy, of Westfield; Mary, Mrs. Alonzo Hyatt, and Margaret Ann, at home.

EDWARD MINNS, farmer and stock-raiser; P. O. Lodi. Foremost in the ranks of self-made men, who have arisen from poverty to plenty, is Edward Minns, who is a native of England, born in Norfolk Feb. 9, 1818, whose parents were David and Margaret (Dunt) Minns, all of whom emigrated to this State in



1836, locating in what was then Lorain Co., since Ashland. Edward's father was a man of limited means. He purchased, however, 23 acres of land, which he was unable to pay for, which Edward, from savings accumulated by day's work, applied to the discharge of the debt, and saved the home for his parents in their declining years. Edward remained with his parents and assisted in their maintenance until he was 25 years of age. Dec. 10, 1845, he sought the hand of Rachel Norton in marriage, who was born in Yorkshire, Eng., Jan. 1, 1819. Her parents were Richard and Sarah (Richardson) Norton. Six children have crowned this union, viz.: Margaret (now Mrs. Frank Richardson), Russell (who is now farming in this township), Sarah P. (Mrs. H. Waggoner), Emeline and Cecelia; Nelson died in infancy. Mr. Minn's association with this township began in the year 1841, when he worked the Timothy Burr farm (where he now resides) on shares for two years. He then moved to Chatham Township, where he had purchased 120 acres of unimproved land at \$6.50 per acre. Building a log cabin and barn, he lived on this place two years, then moved across the line into this township, where he had purchased 100 acres at \$17.50 per acre. Upon this farm he remained until his removal to his present farm, in 1861, consisting of about 362 acres, costing him nearly \$9,000. He has since deeded to Russell his farm in the north part of the township, and now gives his attention to his home farm, where he combines stock-raising with his farming, sheep being the kind he deals most in. From a poor boy, working at low wages, making his commencement by day labor, cutting and splitting rails at 50 cents per hundred, working for such wages he could obtain, making it a rule, if he could not get his price, he would accept such as was offered him, rather than remain idle. He has at length, by these means and the exercise of rigid economy, risen to his present position. Is an Episcopalian, receiving his confirmation before leaving England.

RUSSELL E. MINNS, farmer; P. O. Lodi; is a young and enterprising farmer of this township, who was born March 7, 1850, in ——— Township; is the second child and only son born to Edward Minns, one of the self-made men of Medina Co. Edward was raised upon the farm, having received common and select

school advantages. October, 1871, formed a matrimonial alliance with Helen F. Brown, who was born in Cleveland Oct. 29, 1850. She is a daughter of John C. and Orpha (Richards) Brown. He was born in the Empire State in 1829; she in Connecticut in 1830. In 1872, Russell located on the farm he now owns, situated in the north part of the township, and contains 95 acres, which is high, arable land. Four children have been born to him, three girls and one son, whose names are Loua E., Eva L., Orpha R. and Edward R. Mr. Minns and wife are both members of the Congregational Church, and like his paternal ancestor, is a good Republican.

SAMUEL NORTON, farming; P. O. Lodi; was born Dec. 17, 1825, in Yorkshire, England; born of a family of nine children, he being the seventh, eight of the number lived to be grown. His parents were Richard and Sarah (Richardson) Norton. He was born July 24, 1784; she Nov. 5, 1787. Their nuptials were celebrated Dec. 17, 1806. Emigrated to this township from England June, 1832, making his selection on the spot where Samuel now lives, where he purchased 49 acres, there being but 5 acres cleared. Erecting a rough cabin, he moved into the same ere it was graced with either doors or windows. Upon this plat of land he spent the remainder of his life, passing over May 12, 1860. His wife joined him June the year following. Samuel always has lived upon the home place. In 1860, Jan. 6, he was married to Mary Jane Berge, who was born February, 1842, in Sullivan Township, Ashland Co., Ohio. She is a daughter of Jacob and Mary Ann Minns. He was born Jan. 31, 1814, in Germany, and came to this State in 1832. She was born April 15, 1815, in England, and, arriving in this State, located with her parents in North Amherst, Lorain Co. Mrs. Norton was the eldest of a family of five children, three girls and two boys. To Mr. and Mrs. Norton have been born five children, three of whom are living, viz., Sarah J., Clara E. and Eva M. George L. died aged 14 months, and Clarence S., aged 5 months. Mr. Norton has a farm of 120 acres of land. His father was a member of the old-line Whig party. Since the dissolution of that party, Samuel has been affiliated with the Republican element.

G. S. PALMER, farmer; P. O. Burbank. This branch of the Palmer family originated





from England. Three brothers emigrated to America several years prior to the Revolution, one locating in Dutchess Co., N. Y., the other in Connecticut, and were associated with those stirring and eventful scenes which occurred in the Colonial period. One Gabriel Palmer served seven years under Gen. Washington. He was the grandfather of Sherwood Palmer, who is the father of our subject, and who was born in Warren Co., N. Y., May 23, 1811; he was a son of Hanmer, a native of New York, who emigrated West in 1816; landed at what is now Akron, but was then Portage Co., Nov. 18, the family arriving the year following; remained there during the winter, and came to Westfield Township April 3, the ensuing year, where he purchased 340 acres of Thorndyke, remaining here until 1845, when he moved south into Jackson Township, Wayne Co., where he lived ten years, then returned to this county, and died at his son Sherwood's home, in Harrisville Township in 1871, being in his 93d year. His wife was a Lewis, who died as early as 1840. The Lewises are of Quaker stock. Her father, or grandfather, Andrew, was one of three who were captured by the Indians and taken across the line to Quebec. He was a millwright, and was engaged at his vocation when taken; the object of his captors was, probably, the hope of a ransom; after three months' captivity, he escaped from them, and for some time afterward kept himself and family secreted in a cellar, where his eldest son was born. Sherwood Palmer, the father of our subject, was the second of a family of six children, he being now the sole survivor. When he came with his father into Westfield, they had to cut their way through, the country being an unbroken forest. His early life was during the days when labor was severe, and compensation low. He worked some time on the public works and cutting and clearing timber, receiving therefor 37½ cents per day to \$12.50 per month. Was married March 26, 1833, to Rebecca Reynolds, born in Hillsboro Co., N. H., May 23, 1808. She was a daughter of Joseph and Rebecca (Jaqueth) Reynolds. Since 1833, he has been a constant resident of Harrisville Township, having 96 acres situated in the southeast part of the township. To him have been born seven children; all grew to manhood and womanhood; they are George S., Louisa, Mrs. G. S.

Winston; Charles H., Milton A., Elizabeth (deceased) and Harriet; Alfred H. died at the age of 22. Mrs. Palmer died Feb. 2, 1877; since her death his daughter Harriet keeps house for him. Mr. Palmer, the father of G. S., is a devoted member of the Masonic Fraternity, as was his father, who was a Royal Arch Mason. Mr. Palmer has always been a staunch Democrat. Sent two sons to the late war—Milton A., who served three years in Co. K, 16th O. V. I., and George S., who was in the 66th O. N. G., who was born on the farm where he now lives, Nov. 18, 1836. Was married Jan. 5, 1859, to Sevilla Mohler, born in Wayne Co., Ohio, 1838; daughter of John and Susan Mohler; four children have been born to him; but two are living—Charles and Jennie L. G. S. is now serving as Township Trustee for third term. He and wife are members of the M. E. Church. His farm, consisting of 72 acres, is situated adjoining Westfield Township.

ROBERT PARK, farmer; P. O. Lodi; was born July 6, 1808, in Beaver Co., Penn. His parents were David and Margaret (Patterson) Park, who were of Irish and English descent. John was a lad of 13 years when his parents came to this State, first stopping in Chester Township, Wayne Co., about two years, then moved to Congress Township. Robert left home before he was of age. His father was a cripple, and had bought land, and was unable to pay for it, which debt Robert took upon himself to liquidate. Robert first went to work on the Ohio Canal, where he worked until the same was completed, and rode into Cleveland on the first boat. He then went to Pennsylvania and worked on the canal running from Pittsburgh to Johnstown; remaining here until it was completed, he returned home and paid off his father's indebtedness. He then went to Homer Township, where he purchased 237 acres of land, at \$1.37½ per acre, giving his horse, saddle and bridle in payment, and the balance to stand in yearly payments of \$100 each. At this time there was but one other house in the township. Shortly after, he purchased 200 acres more, at \$2 per acre. Building him a cabin on his first purchase, he kept bachelor's hall for a time, which, becoming severely monotonous, he wooed and won the hand of Jane Machan. Their nuptials were duly celebrated Oct. 28, 1835. She was a native of Beaver Co., Penn.; she was a daughter of Robert and



Hester (Carlin) Machan. After his marriage, he located in this township, where he now resides, where he had purchased 240 acres; but a small portion of the same was cleared. Of ten children born unto him, but four are living, viz., David, Robert (in this township), Joseph (in Wayne Co.) and Matilda (now Mrs. E. J. Moore, of Michigan). Mr. Park, in his young days, was an officer in the Light-horse Cavalry. His father served in the war of 1812; died in 1848, aged 62. When Mr. Park first came to Wayne Co., it was fifteen miles to Ashland from his father's house, but one house between the two places, and that course was only traced by blazed trees. He has always been a loyal and true Democrat, and whose faith has ever been that a change in the administration is yet to occur. He cast his first vote for Jackson, and yet expects to live to see a Democratic executive officer in the White House. Twelve years ago, he was stricken with the palsy, and is now, in a great degree, helpless, but his mind is yet active, and he is a great reader, and a liberal patron of the public journals.

HAIL A. PRENTICE, farmer; P. O. Lodi; was born in Lodi, March, 1848; son of W. W. and P. A. (Morgan) Prentice. When Hail was about the age of 20, his father died, and the care of the homestead farm devolved upon him. He was subsequently married to Lucy Haskins, whose parents were Samuel and Louisa (Kenel) Haskins. He was a native of Canada, and finally located at Cleveland, where Lucy was born, May 14, 1856. Her father died when she was very young, and she knew but little of his family. Her mother was born in London; she is now the wife of W. W. Griffen, of this township. Since the marriage of our subject, he has been a resident of the old Prentice estate, which was settled by his grandfather. He is a young man of temperate and industrious habits and bids fair to become one of the township's prominent farmers.

CHESTER PROUTY, farmer; P. O. Lodi; was born Sept. 23, 1836, in La Fayette Township; the eldest son of W. D. Prouty, to whom were born two children. Feb. 3, 1859, Chester was married to Jane M. Logan, born Aug. 31, 1837, in Montville Township. She is a daughter of Robert and Jennett (Conning) Logan, who were natives of Glasgow, Scotland, who emigrated to this country about the year 1835, and located in Montville Township. To them

were born seven children, five boys and two girls. Four of the boys volunteered in the late war. Mrs. Prouty's parents are both dead; her mother died in August, 1848; her father several years afterward. After Chester's marriage, he located in La Fayette Township; in 1869, he moved on the farm he now occupies. Mrs. Prouty's parents were members of the "Sceders." Mr. P. and wife are identified with the M. E. Church, being consistent members of the same.

M. L. PANCOAST, farmer and mechanic; P. O. Burbank; is a native of the Keystone State, born Feb. 26, 1810, in Union County. His parents were William and Vashti (Cooper) Pancoast, who emigrated to this State in a wagon, when Mr. L. was a lad of 4 summers. There were seven children born to them, our subject being the fifth in order of birth. Upon the family's arrival, they located in Wayne County, near Wooster, upon 160 acres of land, which he had purchased previous to his arrival. There being no house for their reception, they lived in their four-horse wagon until they could provide themselves with a suitable domicile. They drove out with them a cow, which, soon after their coming, got choked to death, and her calf, of premature birth, was skinned, and the family Bible was covered with the same, which is now held in the family as a valued heirloom. His father was a splendid mechanic, and manufactured augers and gimlets, and had no superior in this direction. Mr. L., early in life, turned his attention to the anvil and forge, and though equal to his paternal ancestor in general work, in the manufacture of tools, he could never come up to his standard. In 1847, he was married to Mary Cook, who was born in Westmoreland Co., Penn., 1811, daughter of Samuel and Mary (McFarland) Cook, both of whom were from Maryland. After Mr. Pancoast was married he lived eight years in Meigs County, where he carried on a large shop, running four hands. Subsequently moved to this township, where he has been a resident about thirty-four years. Has a snug farm, and, for the last twelve years, has abandoned his trade and attended only to his place. Began poor, made a good start, but parties owing him took the benefit of the bankrupt law, and he lost nearly all he had; went to work again with renewed vigor; he soon retrieved his loss, and afterward became fore-





handed, and has a good home and plenty for his maintenance. Of seven children born him, five are living—Elizabeth, Mrs. Lewis Frank, of Michigan; Mary Jane, Mrs. John Hellman; Samuel; William; and Druella, Mrs. H. Snyder. He is a member of the Presbyterian Church, has been identified with that church for many years, and has always been found in Republican ranks.

W. W. PRENTICE, deceased, Lodi; was born in the Empire State April 20, 1813, son of John P. Prentice, of Yankee birth and parentage. He emigrated to this county about the year 1829, locating in the north part of Harrisville Township, where he purchased 100 acres of land, then densely covered with heavy growth of timber. Here, upon this farm, Mr. Prentice spent his early manhood, and was schooled in a log cabin, and was thus educated to discharge the duties which afterward devolved upon him. Jan. 18, 1843, he was united in matrimony to Miss P. A. Morgan, who was born in Litchfield Co., Conn.; was a daughter of Elijah and Polly (Strong) Morgan, who came West, locating in this township about the year 1830. After Mr. Prentice's marriage, they located in Lodi. He was a carpenter, and followed this vocation for several years. Subsequently, was elected Justice of the Peace, in which position he served the people acceptably, who honored him by repeated re-elections. During his first terms of service, before rendering his decision in case of doubt, would defer giving it until he could consult good authority. His mature judgment and ripe experience, combined with his strict integrity in business affairs, being recognized, secured for him quite an amount of business as administrator in settling estates. For sixteen consecutive years, he meted out justice to his constituents, and died in the discharge of his duty. He was, for several years, President of the Bank at Lodi, and, though not a member of any orthodox church, yet endeavored to act upon the square with all mankind, guided by the principles of morality and virtue; was a member of the Masonic Fraternity, and aimed to be governed by its precepts. May 26, 1868, he was called from his labors on earth, and his remains now repose in Lodi cemetery, where a suitable monument was erected by loving hands, to perpetuate his memory as a worthy citizen, kind husband, and an affectionate father. His wife and four children survive him—Hail, who resides on the

Prentice farm; Florence, now Mrs. H. Prouty, of La Fayette Township; Wade and Elsie, at home. Mrs. Prentice is a member of the M. E. Church, and is yet a resident of the town. Her mother died March, 1876, her father about the year 1848.

WILLIAM D. PROUTY, retired farmer; P. O. Lodi. Is a native of Vermont, born in Windham Co., May 23, 1813. His father, Stephen, was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, enlisting in the service at the age of 16, and served in that struggle for five years. He was afterward married to Edith Devol, by whom he had eight children, William D. being the youngest of the number. The family emigrated to St. Lawrence Co., N. Y., in the year 1826, when William was a lad of 13. In the spring of 1833, William came West, having 75 cents in money upon his arrival. He worked by the month for his brother some time, and afterward worked by the day at 50 cents, and did job work wherever it was to be had. He finally purchased 135 acres of unimproved land in La Fayette Township, at \$4 per acre, paying \$100 down. No improvements had been made, it was all woods, being at this time, but nine voters in the township. Erecting a rude log cabin, he began clearing up the timber for the reception of a crop. He marketed his wheat at Cleveland, at 3 shillings per bushel, pork being then sold for \$1.50 per hundred, other products proportionately low. Such articles as they required for home consumption, were purchased at high rates. Dec. 17, 1835, he was wedded to Lydia D. Foster, who was born in Jefferson Co., N. Y., Nov. 6, 1815, daughter of Albrough Foster. To Mr. Prouty have been born two children, viz.: Chester, who now occupies the home farm, and Luther, of Chatham Township. Disposing of the greater portion of his land to the infirmary, he came to this township in 1835, locating where Chester now resides, living on the same until May, 1879, when he left his farm and moved to Lodi to spend the remainder of his days in the enjoyment of the fruits of his labor in quiet and retirement, enjoying the esteem of the citizens with whom he has been associated and identified for nearly one-half a century. Though a Democrat in principle, yet has never been ultra in his opinions, having always been contented to abide by the decision rendered by the masses, and to cheerfully conform to the "powers that be."



GEORGE REPP, farmer; P. O. Lodi; born Jan. 10, 1819, in Schuylkill Co., Penn.; born of a family of ten children, whose parents were Solomon and Eve (Delecamp) Repp. George is the eldest living male representative of the Repp family. He was 10 years of age when he emigrated West with his parents, who located in this township, near the place where George now resides, where his father purchased 438 acres; but a very small portion was cleared at that time of his settlement. George continued his residence with the family until he was 26 years of age. About this time, he was married to Mary Kime, who was born in the same county and State. She died, leaving to his care three children—Josiah, Emeline and Polly Ann, now the wife of William Harvie. His present wife was Mrs. Sarah Kime. To them have been born three children, William and Iverna V. and Idena V. who are twins. Mr. Repp is among the well-to-do farmers of the township, having 270 acres of land. He is a member of the United Brethren; his wife of the Evangelical.

FRANK RICHARDSON, farmer; P. O. Lodi; is a native of Lorain Co., Ohio, born Aug. 10, 1835. His parents were William E. and Mary (Dalton) Richardson; both were born in England, and emigrating to America in about 1830, locating in Grafton Township, where they lived until their deaths. He died 1868; she 1874, in March. Frank's father was a farmer, who raised his son to this vocation. At the age 19 he began the carpenter's trade, which he has followed since. In 1868, he turned his attention to farming, which he is now pursuing. In 1862, he volunteered and was assigned to Co. B, 42d O. V. I.; served about four months, and was discharged on account of impaired health. Feb. 8, 1866, he became the husband of Margaret Minns, born 1845, in this township. She is a daughter of Edward Minns, one of the prominent farmers in the township. His children are Libbie, Charley, Cora and Bina. Since his marriage, he has been a resident of the township. His farm, situated north of Lodi one-half mile, consists of 78½ acres. He is a member of the Republican party, and of the Masonic Fraternity Harrisville Lodge, No. 137.

J. C. RITCHEY, farmer; P. O. Lodi; is a son of John and Sarah (Norton) Ritchey. John Ritchey was born May 21, 1815, was a native of Pennsylvania, and was united by marriage

to Sarah Norton, who was born in Yorkshire, Eng., April 21, 1814. To them were born three children, whose names are Julia, who is now the wife of George Nelson, of Chatham; Flora, wife of S. W. DeWitt, of Harrisville, and John C., who was born in this township Aug. 12, 1846. His father died July 21, the same year of John's birth, hence they never saw each other. John's father made his first place of settlement in the southeastern part of the township, on the farm now owned by Joe Linnell, where he was for some time engaged in running a woolen factory, the first enterprise of the kind run in the township; farther notice will be made of the same in the history of the township. John's mother was afterward married to Andrew Gillely, and with them our subject lived until he attained the age of 25. June 12, 1872, he was married to Arabella Rogers, born in La Fayette Township April 23, 1847, daughter of Isaac and Isabella (Chapman) Rogers; she was the eldest of a family of five children. Since the marriage of this couple they have resided on the farm he now owns, consisting of 80 acres on Lot 94, one mile and a half southwest of Lodi. Milo M. and Minnie M. are the names of the children born to them.

JESSE RICHEY, deceased. The above-mentioned personage, who now lies slumbering in the grave, was born in Westmoreland Co., Penn., Jan. 7, 1794; he was a son of John Richey, who emigrated West to Ohio, and settled near Wooster. Jesse Richey was twice married; to the second wife, May 1, 1834, to Eliza George, who was born Dec. 12, 1812, in Columbiana Co., Ohio; she was a daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth (Armstrong) George. The George family are of Irish stock. The day following the marriage of Mr. Richey, he moved into this county, purchasing 128 acres of land in the southeast part of Harrisville Township—this land was entirely covered at that time with heavy growth of timber, which he cleared up; he died at his home Sept. 1, 1847, was a member of the Presbyterian Church, and a zealous worker in the same, and one of the worthy members of society at large. To him were born four children by his second marriage, viz.: Sarah, now deceased, was the wife of W. B. Chapman, of La Fayette Township, died March 6, 1868; Andrew died Oct. 28, 1854, aged 16 years. Elizabeth, born in 1840, March 6, and Maria, wife of Adam





Shilling, of Wayne Co.; she was born Feb. 1, 1845. The family are all members of the M. E. Church. Elizabeth was married in July, 1861, to James Young, who was born in Pennsylvania Jan. 23, 1830. After marriage they moved to Burbank, where he engaged in business; he was among the number who offered up his life upon the altar of his country; he was a member of Company F, 76th O. V. I.; he was killed at the battle of Vicksburg. Since his death Mrs. Young has resided with her mother, who yet occupies the homestead.

S. B. ROGERS, farmer; P. O. Lodi; was born in this township Sept. 4, 1828, the fifth child and third son of his parents, Isaac and Anna (Brainard) Rogers, who were among the pioneer settlers of this township; he died March 20, 1860; she in the year 1846. Sherman left home at the age of 22, having \$45; he applied it toward the payment on twenty acres of land. August, 1850, he was married to Parmelia Dean, who was a native of this township, whose parents were David and Sophia (Brown) Dean. After his marriage he located in La Fayette Township, where he had made his purchase, afterward adding to it 50 acres, then 47; subsequently moved into this township, where he purchased one-half interest in the farm he now owns; has now 275 acres; has one child, Wilbert W., born 1857, who is now settled on the farm, and married Jennie Gilbert. Mr. Rogers has devoted his life to agricultural pursuits; has always been a substantial member of the community; October, 1880, was elected to the office of County Commissioner by a flattering majority; has always affiliated with the Republican party, and has ever been found loyal and true to the principles that party espouses.

ISAAC ROGERS, bakery, Lodi; 1825, July 25, was one of the most important eras in the history of Mr. Rogers' life, as upon that day he first began his observations on the farm his father located upon, which was situated near Lodi. His father was born in Connecticut; his name was Isaac, and he was married to Anna Brainard, to whom were born eleven children, Isaac being the third. The Rogers family came to this township in 1817; when Isaac, Sr., arrived, he had 50 cents in money and his ax, which he had bought on credit; he, however, succeeded in securing 75 acres of land, which he settled upon. Indians still occupied and traversed

these woods; bears, wolves and wild game were in great abundance. Isaac well remembers seeing his father stand in his cabin door and shoot deer and other wild game as they passed through the woods in front of their premises. Isaac remembers at one time, when going to school with his sisters, of meeting a bear with two cubs in the woods, the cubs playing about them, while the mother stood upon her haunches a short distance away, watching with evident satisfaction the antics of her offspring; the children, being frightened, hid themselves away, but not molesting the cubs they were not pursued. October, 1845, he was married to Isabela Chambers, born in Milton Township, Wayne Co., 1821, daughter of John Chambers, a native of Pennsylvania. After Isaac was married, he settled in La Fayette Township, where he engaged in farming, which business he has followed continuously until 1868, when he left his farm and moved to Lodi, where he has been engaged in milling and running butcher-shops; more recently has been carrying on a bakery and grocery store; has five children—Arabela, Mrs. John Richey; Ursula, Arthur, William and Cora (Mrs. Lee Ellis).

MRS. ELIZABETH ROGERS, farming; P. O. Lodi; was born in Germany Dec. 19, 1831; daughter of Francis and Catherine (Hanour) Moore, who emigrated to this State when Elizabeth was a babe, locating in Stark Co. Her father died when she was less than two years old; her mother afterward was married to John P. Musser, and with them she lived until her marriage to Joseph O. Rogers, who was born in this township; son of David Rogers. After their marriage, they located in the northeast part of the township, on the Medina road, upon a piece of land given him by his father, where they resided about thirteen years; then moving to Harris Township, Ottawa Co., near Toledo; here he had purchased a good farm, where they lived until 1877. He died Jan. 10, same year; had purchased the Baker farm, where Mrs. Rogers now lives, in 1876, and purposed moving there soon, thinking the change would be beneficial to his health, but death had marked him as his own. His remains now repose in the cemetery in Westfield Township, where a suitable monument marks his last resting-place. He died in the triumphs of a living faith in his Redeemer. He was past 52 years of age, was an excellent man to his family, an accommodat-



ing neighbor and valued citizen. In March, 1878, Mrs. Rogers was called to mourn the loss of her son, Joseph Franklin, who lost his life coming in contact with "the damps," while descending a well at her home; he was aged 21 years 1 month and 9 days. Emery T. died at the age of 4 years and some months; three children are now living—Isaac A., in Chatham; William H. and Ida L., at home. Mrs. Rogers has 56 acres of land, and is comfortably situated in life. She is a member of the M. E. Church, with which her husband was identified.

JOHN STERN, farmer; P. O. Lodi; born March 23, 1827, in Pennsylvania. His father's name was Christian, and he was a native of Pennsylvania, and was married to Elizabeth Miller, who was a native of Maryland. To them were born nine children, six of whom grew to maturity. Emigrating West in 1829, they made a halt of about three years in Wayne Co., and located permanently, in 1835, on the farm now owned by our subject; only one-half acre was cleared. Upon this place they spent the remainder of their days. His death took place in 1867; two years later, his wife joined him in the "house appointed for all the living." John has made the homestead farm his home ever since the family located. Nov. 13, 1870, he took the hand of Ardella Smith in marriage, who was born in Wayne Co. July 1, 1850, being a daughter of George and Margaret (Hutchinson) Smith. He was born in Pennsylvania Dec. 26, 1815; she was born in Allegheny Co., Penn., April 12, 1821, and they were married Dec. 25, 1838. To them were born nine children, six now living. After their union, they located in Wayne Co., where they resided until 1859, when they came to this county. Mr. Smith died Nov. 15, same year of their advent to this township. To Mr. and Mrs. Stern have been born two children, whose names are Rena L. and Mark B. His parents were members of the church, Lutheran and Presbyterian, respectively. Politically, Mr. Stern was formerly affiliated with the Democratic party, more recently with the Greenback element. He is a snug and economical farmer, whose real estate comprises 75 acres of land.

ELI SIMCOX, farmer; P. O. Lodi; born in Wadsworth Township Feb. 6, 1822; is the eldest of a family of children born to Benjamin and Jane (Falconer) Simcox, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania. Benjamin was a son

of Samuel Simcox, who was one of the early arrivals to Wadsworth, there being at the time of his coming less than one-half dozen families in the township. In 1832, Benjamin located in Harrisville, on the farm now owned by Eli, where he purchased 144 acres, and lived upon the same until his demise, which occurred Dec. 30, 1855. Since the death of his father, Eli has continued his residence on the same place. March 10, 1853, he was joined in the bonds of matrimony with Polly M. Stern, born November, 1832, who was a daughter of Christian and Elizabeth (Miller) Stern. Her grandparents were natives of Germany. Mr. Simcox has a snug farm of 41 acres, which he farms quite successfully. Four children have been born to him, none of them are now living. His family, consisting of himself and wife, who enjoy their solitude, but mourn the loss of their little ones, as those only who have had similar experiences.

ALFRED SARGEANT, retired farmer; P. O. Lodi. Among the old residents of this township, who was born on British soil, is the above-named gentleman, whose birth occurred May 5, 1805, in the District of Montreal, in Sheffield Co., Lower Canada. His parents were Roswell and Phoebe (Allen) Sargeant, both of them born in Brattleboro, Vt. To them were born nine children, Alfred, the third in order, and was reared to agricultural pursuits, afterward learning the carpenter's trade, which he worked at the greater portion of his life. March 3, 1830, he was married to Irene Brill, who was born April 23, 1807, at St. Armand, Lower Canada; daughter of W. and Eunice (Chapman) Brill, who were born in Dutchess Co., N. Y., at Fishkill, in the year 1777, and Connecticut, respectively. Mr. Sargeant, like many others, in order to better his condition, emigrated West, and cast his lot with the rugged frontiersmen who had preceded him, he reaching this State upward of fifty years ago, and, since 1838, he has been a resident of this township. His first purchase was 50 acres, for which he paid \$8 per acre; afterward added to it until he now has 110 acres, situated in the north part of the township. Has now retired from active business, his farm being carried on by his son. Mr. Sargeant has been a man of good information, having been considerable of a reader and close observer. Eight children have been born to him, five of the number living, who are Elnathan S.; Freedom E., now





Mrs. John N. Ward ; Harry A., in Iowa; Alfred A.; and Irene A., Mrs. William Sayles. Politically, he is on the side of Republicanism and its principles.

ALBERT H. SANFORD, farmer; P. O. Lodi. Mr. Sanford now resides upon the same plat of ground where he was born, which event took place Feb. 24, 1835, where his father, Beers Sanford, located in 1833. Albert's mother's maiden name was Rachel Ackerley, and was married, in New York, to Beers Sanford, who was a native of Chenango Co., and of Yankee stock, the Ackerleys being of Dutch extraction. To this couple were born nine children, two sisters and seven brothers, Albert being the youngest of the family. With the exception of two years which he spent in Michigan, he has been a constant resident of the township. In December, 1863, he went out with Co. E, 128th O. V. I., and remained with them until the termination of the war. In November, 1857, he became the husband of Harriet Bissell, born Feb. 3, 1839, in New York; daughter of John and Harriet (Parker) Bissell. This couple emigrated West in 1845, locating in Chatham Township. Mr. Bissell is a native of Otsego Co., N. Y., his wife of Massachusetts. To Mr. and Mrs. Sanford have been born two children—Riley A., died eight months from birth, and Harmon, born April 12, 1867. Both Mr. S. and wife are members of the M. E. Church. His farm of 57½ acres is well tilled, and yields the possessor a good return for his labor rendered. His farm is located in the north part of the township, and has never changed hands since his father located upon it, in 1833, when it was unimproved and covered with a heavy growth of forest trees.

GEORGE L. SHAW, farmer; P. O. Lodi; the Shaws are of Scotch descent. George was born April 7, 1828, in Orleans Co., Vt., being the third of a family of six children born to his parents, Hiram and Mahala (Washburn) Shaw; he was born 1800 in Massachusetts, she one year later in Vermont; 1834, came West to Wayne County, locating in Canaan Township; 1838, they moved to Medina County, locating in Guilford Township, where he made his first purchase of land. George began learning his trade at the age of 19, as carpenter and joiner. Aug. 3, 1849, was married to Cynthia Litchfield, who was born in Canandaigua Co., N. Y., Sept. 12, 1825, whose parents were Israel

and Chloe (Keth) Litchfield, both born in Hampshire Co., Mass., and settled in Lorain Co., Ohio, 1833, when leaving the Bay State. George L. was married in Lorain, where he found his wife; living here two years after marriage, he removed to Whiteside Co., Ill., purchased 80 acres of land, remaining two years and a half, when he returned to this State; he located in Wellington, where he engaged in the grocery business two years; 1859, he purchased 184 acres in Westfield Township, which he retained about ten years; leaving the farm in 1867, he located in Lodi, and has since been a citizen of the town; has since sold his land; 1870, he started a cheese-factory at this town, which he conducted successfully about six years. Of four children born him, two are now living, viz.: Hubert L. and Alvin L.; Ethan A. and Frank C. died at the ages of 12. Since the organization, he has been a member of the Republican party. Mr. Shaw is self-made; what he has accomplished in life, has been done by hard toil and economy. Mrs. Shaw was the fifth child of a family of nine, all of whom grew to maturity.

HENRY SELDERS, blacksmith, Lodi; was born Jan. 24, 1829, in Tuscarawas Township, Stark Co., Ohio. His parents were natives of Pennsylvania. His father was born about the year 1772, and emigrated West soon after the expiration of the war of 1812, when he afterward married Mary Aukerman, to whom were born eight children, Henry being the youngest. The family are somewhat remarkable for their longevity; three of his grandparents lived to be over 100 years of age, one lived to be 101, another 103, and the other, 105. George Selders, the father of Henry, was a blacksmith, which trade, having attractions to his son, he, likewise, turned to it naturally; his father purchased land and cleared it up, yet did it through others, he, himself, worked continuously at his trade, hiring others to do the farm work. Henry left home at 18, when he went to Holmes County, where he learned his trade; after its completion, he returned to Stark County, where he worked a short time, afterward worked nearly two years in Wayne County. Sept. 4, 1850, he came to Lodi, where he afterward associated, in a business way, with W. B. Gaylord, for about five years; since that time, has been doing business upon his own account, formerly did general blacksmithing, but, of late years,



makes more a specialty of horseshoeing, being one of the best in the country; although coming here poor, he has since acquired a good property and a pleasant home. Has always been identified with the Republican party, has filled different offices of trust and responsibility as Trustee of the Academy, Director and Teller of the bank, and is now serving as Township Trustee, which he has filled for thirteen years; has always been on the side of progress, a man of sound judgment, public spirited, and a useful citizen in the community. June 10, 1854, he was married to Juliet Towslee, who was born Feb. 22, 1832, in Chenango Co., N. Y., daughter of Darius and Sarah Marsh. He was born in Nine Partners Township, Dutchess Co., N. Y., Dec. 24, 1778, and died Sept. 20, 1850; she was born Nov. 21, 1787, in Bennington, Vt. To Mr. Selders has been born one son, Adelbert, who was born March 14, 1855.

DYER STRONG, retired farmer; P. O. Lodi. Mr. Strong, whose portrait appears in this book, was born March 6, 1802, in Litchfield Co., Conn., town of Warren, son of Stephen and Lydia (Hine) Strong, to whom were born seven children, he being the sixth in order. Dyer was raised to farming, and remained with his parents until he was married to Hannah Griffen, born July 17, 1809, daughter of John and Electa (Wares) Griffen, who were born, respectively, in Connecticut and Vermont. Their wedding was duly celebrated Feb. 5, 1831. Soon after their marriage, they came West, locating in this township, on 90 acres of land, which he had purchased the fall previous. Building him a log cabin in the woods, they lived happily together for years. Soon the forest was hewn down, and the old log house was replaced by one more convenient and modern. In 1867, having his farm under excellent improvements, and being desirous of retiring from business, he sold his farm, and has since been a resident of Lodi, where he is very comfortably and neatly situated, having built all of his buildings according to his own plans, and has everything handy and convenient about him, and is enjoying the evening of his life in peace and quietness. No children have graced their fireside. The only thing that will be left behind him to perpetuate his memory is a beautiful shaft of Scotch granite, which he has caused to be erected in the cemetery adjoining the town, which was erected at considerable expense.

Though not a member of any church or society, he has ever been charitably disposed.

G. W. TOWSLEE, farmer; P. O. Lodi; was born June 10, 1825, in the town of Smithville, Chenango Co., N. Y.; is of a numerous progeny, of a family of fourteen children, who were born to Darius and Sallie (Marsh) Towslee. The Towslees are of French origin. Three brothers of that name emigrated to America many years ago, and from them have descended all those of the name. Darius was born in "Nine Partners," Vt., and went from there to the Empire State, and finally to this State, locating in this township in 1839, purchasing 87½ acres, but a small portion of which was cleared, having a small cabin and log shed, and threshing-floor outside. George W., being a lad of 14 years at the time of his father's arrival, well remembers the unpromising surroundings. His parents remained on this farm until their death. His father died Sept. 21, 1850, aged 71 years 9 months and 4 days; she, Sept. 16, 1858, aged 70 years 9 months and 26 days. June 10, 1854, George was married to Maria Pollock, who was born in Painesville, Lake Co., Ohio, July 26, 1826, whose parents were Samuel and Sarah (Harper) Pollock; both were natives of Pennsylvania. Mr. Towslee is among the well-to-do farmers in the township; has a farm consisting of 220 acres of excellent land, all of which is under cultivation except 20 acres. In connection with his farming, he is interested in the township dairy, and furnishes about twenty cows for the same. His family consists of two daughters—Lillie G., graduating in June, 1881, in the Conservatory of Music at Oberlin; Ella Harper, a miss, now "sweet 16." Mrs. Sarah E. Pollock died Dec. 1, 1870; Samuel, her husband, in July, 1874. Mrs. Towslee is a member of the Congregational Church.

A. B. TAYLOR, manufacturer, Lodi. Among the young representatives of this township, who have a bright and prosperous future awaiting them, is A. B. Taylor, who was born in this county July 12, 1846, the only son of John Taylor, one of the prominent and self-made men of this township. Mr. Taylor's father was a tinner. This business not interesting him sufficiently to make it a life business, he entered the store of T. G. Loomis at the age of 14, remaining with him until 18 years of age, at which time he engaged in business, under the firm name of F. R. Loomis & Co., at Lodi,





which relation existed a term of years; then F. R. Loomis dropped out, T. G. taking his place. The new firm was then known as Loomis & Taylor, which partnership lasted until 1877. Since 1874, Mr. Taylor has been Postmaster at this place. Sept. 1, 1869, he was married to Mary J. Strong, who is a native of Westfield Township. Both he and wife are members of the Congregational Church. Mr. Taylor is now engaged in running his mills at Lodi. Has recently refitted the mill property formerly owned by Mr. English. In connection with his saw-mill, he has a planing-machine and turning-lathe, where he is prepared to do work in that line, and is also manufacturing step-ladders and clothes-racks, which are light, durable and cheap. This enterprise of Mr. Taylor's is destined to be a very useful one to the people and lucrative to its proprietor, who is a young man of thorough business qualifications, and will drive his business in such a manner as to insure success.

JOHN WISE, farmer; P. O. Lodi; first saw the light of day June 1, 1832, in Congress Township, Wayne Co., Ohio. His father's name was Peter, who married Christina Grove. They were natives of Pennsylvania, and emigrated to Wayne Co. about the year 1820, and were among the early settlers in that locality. To them were born ten children, John being the sixth in order of birth. Nine of this number grew to maturity. After many years of

usefulness in his "day and generation," he passed over in February, 1875, being at the time of his death 77 years of age. His death occurred in Indiana, where he had moved in 1853. His wife still survives him. Farming being the business to which John was raised, he has continued at the same since he has been doing business for himself. In 1854, he caught the gold fever, and straightway turned his course to California, where he spent five years. A portion of the time he was engaged in mining, and afterward worked in a grist and saw mill in Oregon. Finally returned to his native State with more experience than money, and, though the expedition, he states, was a financial failure, yet he has never regretted making the trip. June 7, 1858, he was married to Eliza J. Pittenger, who was born in Wayne Co., daughter of Thomas and Catharine (Smith) Pittenger, who were of Irish descent. On her father's side, the family are of Dutch descent, her grandfather being a native of Holland. In 1860, John located in Spencer Township, where he purchased 80 acres. He remained there until 1865, when he moved to his present home, two miles southwest of Lodi, where he has 202 60-100 acres of choice bottom land. He has six children—William A., Peter, Thomas, Mary, Maggie and Minnie. He began poor, having no aids to begin with, excepting his hands and inclination. He and wife are members of the M. E. Class at Lodi.

## WESTFIELD TOWNSHIP.

GOTTLEIB BURRY, farmer; P. O. Friendsville; was born Oct. 1, 1825, in Beaver Co., Penn.; the fourth child of his parents, who were John and Ann Burry, both natives of Switzerland. His parents emigrated to Fairfield Co., this State, in 1824, but, finding the county very sparsely settled and sickly, they removed to Beaver Co., Penn., where they lived about twelve years; then located in Butler Co. His business was that of a drover and stock-trader. He had a farm, which was generally carried on by his boys, his time being mostly employed away from home in the prosecution of his business, the nature of which gave him quite extensive travel and acquaintance with the people.

Gottlieb remained upon the farm until he attained man's estate, about which time he was joined in wedlock to Susan Sechler, their nuptials being duly solemnized April 16, 1846. She was born in Butler Co. Jan. 14, 1827, daughter of Abram Sechler, whose wife was a Boyer. After marriage, he engaged in farming upon his own account. Afterward purchased his father's farm, where he remained until his emigration to this place, which occurred April 2, 1866, where he purchased 138 acres of land; has since added to the same until he has 242 acres. Of ten children born him, but six are living, viz., Abraham, John F., Mary A., Sarah, David and Ellen; of those deceased are Calvin,



who died in Pennsylvania at the age of 6; Sammie, when 4 years, of scarlet fever; Charles met with a sudden death on the farm at the age of 12; he was thrown from a horse and killed; Nancy died after attaining to ripe womanhood. Abraham and John F. are married and doing for themselves. The former married Elmira Fox, daughter of Aaron Fox. John F. married Ellen Unangst. Mr. Burry's farm is located about one mile and a half north of Morse's Corners, and is one among the best farms of the neighborhood. For several years past his health has been very much impaired—heart disease and lung trouble being the principal ailments. Mr. B. is one of the representative men in his neighborhood; is a successful farmer; a man of extensive reading and a candid thinker, and never adopts any new measure or theory, without first weighing the matter in all its bearings. As a business man, he is just and upright in all his transactions. Is a friend to progress, and has been liberal in his contributions in the support of the Gospel and of the church. Is one of the efficient members of the Reformed Church of this township.

**EZRA BOOTH**, farmer; P. O. Le Roy; is a son of one of the prominent farmers and agriculturists of the county. Ezra was born Aug. 18, 1816, in Belmont Co., the third of a family of nine children, five sons and four daughters, all of whom were born to Levi and Olive (Coe) Booth. Levi was born near Hartford, Conn., she in Massachusetts. When a young man, Mr. Booth, the father of our subject, came to Wheeling, where he served some time as Deputy Sheriff, under his uncle, who was Sheriff. He afterward returned to Connecticut, where he was married; subsequently moved to Meigs Co., then to Athens Co.; afterward came to Portage Co., in 1832; then sold out and moved to Orange, then to Brooklyn, then to Cuyahoga Co.; finally located in this county and township, in 1842, where he purchased several hundred acres of land; afterward returned to Athens Co., where he remained several years; after making several changes, died at Brooklyn, in 1866, being 73 years of age. His wife is now living, being 87 years of age. Mr. Booth was a man of excellent business qualifications, and an upright and conscientious Christian gentleman; was for many years an active member of the M. E. Church; he was a warm friend of Bishop Morris and other promi-

nent church officials. His house was often their home and place of meeting. Ezra, our subject, left home when a lad in his teens. His first adventures were in Meigs Co. After making several changes, he finally came to this county and located on the farm he now owns. In November, 1848, he was married to Julia Jones, born in Wayne Co., Ohio, in 1828. She was a daughter of Sylvanus Jones, Esq. Mr. Booth has 228 acres of land. Since 1874, he has been a resident of Le Roy or Westfield Center, to secure the school advantages afforded. Has seven children, all at home. Mr. Booth and wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and are surrounded by all the comforts and conveniences that affluence affords.

**OLIVER M. COULTER**, farmer; P. O. Seville; whose portrait appears in this book; was born Jan. 17, 1820, in Fayette Co., Penn., the youngest of a family of four children, but two are now living—Elma, Mrs. George Palmer, of Guilford, and our worthy subject are the sole survivors of the Coulter family. His parents were Samuel D. and Nancy (Stewart) Coulter. He was born Dec. 10, 1784, in Bedford Co., Penn.; she in same county, March 4, 1792. They were married in 1812. She was a daughter of John and Rhoda (Shin) Stewart, to whom were born four children—Charles, John, Mary and Nancy. Their parents were born as follows: John Stewart, Feb. 15, 1756; Rhoda Shin, July 25, 1765. Shortly after the marriage of Samuel D.—the war then being in progress—he turned out, and was assigned to Capt. Wadsworth's company, and, being superior as a judge and manager of horses, he was assigned duty as teamster, and drove one of the first teams loaded with provisions for the soldiers on the road leading from Pittsburgh to Ft. Stevenson. He was at one time the bearer of a very important dispatch from Gen. Harrison to Ft. Stevenson, making the trip safely and with haste. After the war, he came to Fayette Co., Penn.; from here he removed to Jefferson Co., and finally died of cholera while on a business trip to Indiana, in August, 1832. About four years afterward, Oliver and his mother came to this State, locating where he now resides, purchasing at first 70 acres, at \$15 per acre; about 20 of the number was "slashed." They began in pioneer style; lived in a small cabin, with puncheon floor, for four years; sat on stools, not a





chair in the house at this time; for a bed, Oliver knocked out the chinking of the cabin at the side, and inserted cross pieces, which was upheld with a support on the inside; this constituted their bedsteads. He has now in the house a set of chairs (splint bottom), the first that succeeded the stools. For twenty-four years, Oliver never was absent from his mother overnight; he was ever a kind and dutiful son to her. She died Oct. 16, 1876, and for many years was a member of the M. E. Church, and a noble woman and indulgent parent. Oliver has in his possession a heavy pair of silver-framed spectacles which she owned, which fell to her from her grandmother; also, two patch-work quilts of her handiwork, which are models of workmanship, which he prizes most sacredly. He has also a piece of old Continental money of early date. Oliver is yet a bachelor, good-natured and jolly; is intelligent and well read in the sciences and medicine. He has a farm of 171 acres, which is located two and a half miles from Seville.

HARRIET H. DICKEY, farmer; P. O. Chipewa Lake; was born Aug. 22, 1816, in Camillus Township, Onondaga Co., N. Y. Her parents were David and Cornelia (Houk) Hugunin, both of whom were natives of New York. To them were born twelve children, who are Betsey, Rachel, Martin, Lucinda, Jacob, Harriet, Peter, David, Chester, Hiram, John and Nancy, all of whom lived to be grown and married except Martin, who was a bachelor, and died in the late war. The above-mentioned sisters and brothers are scattered over several States—Betsey in Wisconsin, Lucinda in New York, Peter in Minnesota, David in Michigan, Chester in Wisconsin, Hiram in Michigan, John in this township, Nancy in Indiana; the others are now deceased. Peter Hugunin, the grandfather of Mrs. Dickey, was a native of Holland, as was her mother, who came over when a babe, October, 1833, landing in this township Oct. 8, when she was 17. Her father was in poor health, and was unable to give his children any assistance, further than good advice and counsel. She worked out by the week at 75 cents, continuing three years, and gave the result of her earnings to her parents to assist in their maintenance. Feb. 28, 1839, she became the wife of Samuel R. Dickey, who was born Jan. 9, 1817, in Jefferson Co., N. Y., son of John and Polly (Ramsey) Dickey. He was born in

Pennsylvania, she in Virginia. After their marriage, they began keeping house near where she now resides. Their commencement was on a cheap scale. Their home was a log cabin with puncheon floor, bedstead made of poles, had board table, and stools took the place of chairs, and, with a few old dishes and a kettle, they managed to get along until they could afford better. For three years she never bought a yard of cloth; she spun, out of flax, material for sheets and clothing. After making their purchases for keeping house, Mr. Dickey had two shillings left, which he kept, as he said, for a "nest-egg," for years afterward. The place where they settled was but 3 acres cleared, but soon Mr. Dickey had a large portion of his place improved, he being a very hard-working man. They moved to the place she now lives in 1850. Mr. Dickey died in 1871, on his birthday. He died from a tumor, which was exceedingly painful, making his life, during the last six months, almost unendurable. He was a man of good information, was a great reader, and took a lively interest in political matters. Since his death, the care and the responsibility of the farm has rested upon her mostly. Mr. Dickey was successful in his business affairs, having, at the time of his death, 340 acres. Since the division among the children, Mrs. Dickey has now 240 acres. Four children—Mary, Mrs. G. A. McCabe; Alice, Mrs. Jacob Schemp; Martha J., Mrs. W. Emmons; and John, who resides with his mother. Since Mrs. Dickey was 18 years of age, she has been a member of the M. E. Church. She has a good home, and ample property to maintain her handsomely as long as she may be spared.

DAVID DUDLEY DOWD, farmer; P. O. Pike Station; whose portrait appears in this book, was born in the town of Saybrook, Middlesex Co., State of Connecticut, June 10, 1806. His father was Luther Dowd, born in the town of Guilford, Madison Co., in the year 1770, whose father was Ebenezer, who was the son of Ebenezer. The Dowd family originated from one Henry Dowd, who emigrated from Wales to Connecticut, near New Haven, in 1639. The mother of our subject was Abina Field, sister of Dr. Field, who was the father of Cyrus W. Field, of submarine telegraph fame. Her father was Capt. Timothy Field, who commanded a company in the Revolution. His father's name was Zachariah, who, for his third



wife, married a young woman, Timothy being the issue; were it not for that alliance, Cyrus W. might not have been born. Ebenezer Dowd served through the war of the Revolution, returning home unharmed. Luther Dowd died, in 1820. Shortly after, our subject began the carpenter's trade, which he soon abandoned for the blacksmith occupation. In 1829, Jan. 15, he was married to Mary Harris, who was born July 16, 1803, in Killingworth, Conn., who was a daughter of Dyer and Temperance (Waters) Harris. Her father, Elijah Waters, was an old Revolutionary soldier, and died at the age of 98. In the spring of 1831, Col. Dowd emigrated West, locating at Seville, where he followed his trade three years; then moved north of the town, and engaged in farming for six years; then returned to Seville, and engaged in milling for eight years, and for fifteen years was engaged in the hotel business at that place. In 1834, removed to Kankakee Co., Ill., where he pre-empted a farm of 160 acres, where he stayed five years; returning to this county, was for eight years mail contractor and ran stage and mail line to Cleveland. From 1862 to 1866, was United States Assessor and Internal Revenue Collector, and dealt in real estate—mostly in Western lands. His wife died in 1875, leaving three children, eight having been born: Mary E., Mrs. Parker; Mrs. C. M. Strong, of Colorado; and Manford M. During the times when "general training" was in vogue, our subject was Colonel of the 2d Regiment, 3d Brigade, 9th Div., O. M. July 18, 1878, he was married to Mrs. Mary Decker, who was a native of Ashland Co., daughter of John and Mary Denham. He was born in Pennsylvania, Lancaster Co.; he died in 1876, being 77 years of age. She was born May 24, 1804, in same county. They emigrated West, and were among the early settlers. Mrs. Dowd's first husband was Rev. Augustus Decker, born in Pennsylvania, 1838; son of Jacob and Sarah Decker. To Mrs. Decker were born by him two children—Sidney E. and Benjamin F. Mr. and Mrs. Decker have one child—John H. Moved to his present home in 1873; the year following, built his present residence. He has always been a stanch member of society; his experience in life, though varied, has generally been characterized by success. In the times of slavery, he was ever in sympathy with that down-trodden race, and did

what he could to ameliorate their condition through the ballot box, and was always ready to give the fleeing one shelter and substantial aid. He has ever been a man of temperate habits, and would rejoice to see the triumph of the prohibition element. For years he has been a consistent member of the Presbyterian Church. He is a liberal patron of the public journals, and is a friend to progress, and a worthy citizen of the commonwealth.

S. A. EARL, farmer and stock-raiser; P. O. Friendsville. Esquire Earl was born in Guilford Township, this county, Jan. 1, 1831. His parents were Henry W. and Lucinda (Morgan) Earl. He was born about the year 1797, in New Jersey; was a blacksmith by trade, learning the same in New York City. Was there married to his wife in 1819, who was born in Truxton, Jefferson Co., N. Y., 1803. After their marriage, they emigrated West to this State, selecting as their place of location what is now Seville, where he engaged at his trade, his shop being located where the bank now stands. Remaining here until 1831, he then removed to the west part of the township, at Morse's Corners, and there followed his trade for several years. Was a member of the Baptist Church. His death occurred November, 1865. His widow is yet a resident of this township. Stewart A. left home at the age of 12 years. He worked out two summers, attending school during the winter, working for his board. At the age of 14, went to learn the shoemaker's trade, serving four years' apprenticeship. He then engaged in business for himself, and followed it until 1868. For a short time carried on a store at the Corners. May 15, 1851, was married to Eunice Chapman, who was born in this township, March 27, 1831, whose parents were James and Mary (Hammond) Chapman. He was a native of New York, and came West with Warren Brainard, locating in the west part of the township, and cut the first tree in that locality. His first wife was Eunice Brainard. Mr. Chapman first purchased fifty acres, which he cleared, then moved south a short distance, where he purchased 200 acres, and improved it. Remained here until his death, which occurred in 1851. His wife preceded him one year. She was born in Hartford, Conn., 1796. Came West with her father, Jason Hammond, who purchased 600 acres in Summit Co., Ohio, the place being afterward known as Jason's Cor-





ners. He was a man of considerable wealth, but going bail down East, his resources were crippled in consequence, and came West to retrieve his loss. Since 1870, Mr. Earl has been a resident of the place he now owns, consisting of 80 acres, formerly the Chapman property. Mr. Earl is now serving as Justice of the Peace for the third term, with credit to himself and to the evident satisfaction of the people. He is interested in the best stock of horses, keeping the Clydes and Hiatogas, and breeds for the market. Also keeps Durham cattle, and is doing all he can to raise the grade of stock in this country. Of five children born, but two are living—Earnest H. and Maude P. Ladora F. and Clara, died young. Linna at the age of 15.

J. R. ENGLAND, lumber and farming; P. O. Le Roy, John was born Feb. 15, 1842, in Clearfield Co., Penn., is the second child of a family of eleven children born to Theodore and Martha (Spencer) England. Theodore D. England, was born in the same county Aug. 14, 1817; he was a son of Job and Martha (Williams) England. The family are of Irish and Scotch descent. Mrs. England's father's name was Joseph Spencer, who was married to Lydia Moore, and to them were born ten children, Mrs. England being the fifth child; she was married to Theodore D., Nov. 25, 1838, and emigrated West about the year 1855, locating in La Fayette Township. Mr. England was carpenter and millwright, which business he followed in Penn., and though he owned and carried on a farm there, yet his attention was chiefly given to mechanics and working about machinery. Upon his arrival here, he purchased a farm in La Fayette Township, with the intention of settling down to farming pursuits, but soon returned to his first love, after a residence of two years there, exchanging his farm for the mill property now owned by his sons, John R. and Miles, situated one-half mile west of the center; shortly afterward he built a grist-mill, which was run in connection with the saw-mill; he died May 22, 1870. There were eleven children born him, ten living—Lydia A., John R., Miles S., Hannah J., Joseph, Nathan, William, James, Vina and Theodore D. Prior to the death of his father, John and his brother Miles purchased the mill property, and have since conducted the business. Soon after their ownership they removed the grist-mill to Lodi, selling it to other parties, the lumber bus-

ness being all they could attend to. They buy timber and manufacture the same at their mills, shipping to Cleveland, and are doing a thriving business, also do custom sawing, when not otherwise employed. November, 1866, J. R. was married to Sarah Bottorff, who was born in Chester Township, Wayne Co., Ohio, Sept. 21, 1846; her parents are Jonathan and Elizabeth (Kindy) Bottorff, both natives of Pennsylvania; her father came west to Columbiana Co. on horseback, fording streams; was a millwright and built the first log mill in the county; he finally located in Wayne Co., and purchased a farm; is a resident of this township, and is past 90 years. Mr. England's residence is situated one-half mile south of the Center, where he has 46 acres of land. His life and dealings have been of such a character as to entitle him to the confidence and esteem with which he is held in the community; has two children—Lodema May and Clement Miles.

MRS. LOUISA EDWARDS, retired, Seville. Mrs. Edwards is a representative of the St. John family, who were among the early settlers in this township. Their first settlement was in the southern part of the township, on the farm where Mrs. Bauer now resides. Here the family settled and grew up with the country, and were among the substantial members of the commonwealth. The St. Johns, including the Whitney family have a very extensive family history written up, which gives an account of the family for nearly three hundred years back. The St. Johns are from the Eastern States. Myron St. John, the father of Mrs. Richards, was born in Weybridge, Vt., June 12, 1792, and moved with his parents to Fabius, N. Y., in 1797. Myron was a son of Elijah St. John, who was born in November, 1766. While in Fabius, N. Y., Mr. St. John married Philena Allton, who came with her parents, Amos and Philena (Rice) Allton, to that State in 1816. Mrs. Edwards was married to John Edwards in 1857. He enlisted August, 1862, in Fairmount, Ill., in Co. E, 73d I. V. I., and died at Murrefreesboro in 1863. Mrs. Richards now resides with her mother on the homestead, having no children. The religion of the family is Baptist. Politics, Republican. They came to the farm they now own in 1830, there being but four or five acres cleared. The farm consists of about 135 acres. Mrs. St. John, the mother of Mrs. Richards, was born in Vermont



Sept. 29, 1802, and came to this State in 1828.

JOHN F. FLICKINGER, farmer; Chippewa Lake; was born in Somerset Co., Penn., Aug. 7, 1826; of a family of nine children eight of the number grew to maturity, who were Harriet, Mary Ann, John F., Josiah, Susana, Caroline, Noah and Cassie; four of the eldest were born in Somerset Co., Penn., to their parents. Daniel and Catharine (Lowry) Flickinger; he was born Nov. 10, 1800, son of Jacob, whose father came from Germany. Daniel's mother's maiden name was Susan Witt. The Flickinger family are long lived, and are noted for their longevity. Jacob Flickinger was a stone-mason, by trade, and to him were born eleven children, all of whom lived to be grown, and raised families. Daniel was the eighth of the number born; he remained upon the homestead eight years after he grew to man's estate. Feb. 19, 1822, he was married to Catharine Lowry, who was born June 30, 1797; she was a daughter of John and Mary (Curtz) Lowry; in 1829, he emigrated West and located a piece of land in Milton Township, in Wayne Co., Ohio. His brother Peter and brother-in-law Joseph Arnold had moved out in 1814, locating in Greene Township, near Smithville. Mr. Flickinger purchased 164 acres, which cost \$600, and was unimproved; he cleared up this farm, putting out an orchard, built a bark barn and other buildings, and sold it in 1855; then moved two miles north in Chippewa Township and bought 105 acres; this he also improved quite as well as the latter, remaining upon this farm until August, 1872, when he left the farm and moved to Orville, selling his farm two years afterward. After a life companionship of nearly sixty years, his worthy companion, who for many years walked with him adown the journey of life, sharing with him in the toils and hardships of life, passed to her reward Aug. 16, 1880, leaving five children to mourn her departure, who are Mary Ann, the wife of Mr. Jacob Copenhaver, of Allen Co., Ind.; John F.; Josiah, in Kansas; Noah, in Carroll Co., Ill.; Catharine. Mrs. Rudolph Dague. Since the death of his wife Mr. F. has resided with his son John; has been a man of remarkable power of endurance; has an excellent memory, and though now fourscore, his step has the elasticity of youth and is unusually vigorous for one of his years. Since 16 years of age he has been a member of

the German Reformed Church, in which he always held important official stations. His mother's brothers were soldiers in the Revolution; she herself saw Gen. Washington at the time of the war. John F., whose name heads the above, was raised up under the guardianship of his worthy parents. Feb. 24, 1851, he was married to Hannah Swagler, who was born in Milton Township, Wayne Co., Ohio. March 29, 1829, daughter of Jacob and Hannah (Howe) Swagler, who came West in 1822. Of six children born to them, but three are living—Mrs. Alvin Kimmel and England, her brother, who now reside in Wayne Co., Ohio. Mr. Swagler died in 1874; his wife in 1859. Since 1851, Mr. Flickinger has been a resident of this township. The farm he now owns was once the property of Mr. Swagler, his father-in-law; said farm is situated in the northeast part of the township, adjoining the lake, and consists of over 200 acres. He and his family are members of the M. E. Church. His union with Miss Swagler has been crowned by the birth of five children, four living, who are Melvin S., Lakey J., England and Mina D. Mr. Flickinger is one of the Township Trustees and one of the substantial and reliable members of the community.

HENRY FETZER, farmer; P. O. Friendsville; born in Canaan Township, Wayne Co., Ohio, Dec. 25, 1838. He is of a numerous family, who originated from across the sea. His grandfather's name was Barnhard, who was a native of Alsace, then a part of Frances, who emigrated to this State with seven sons and three daughters, whose names are Jacob, Barnhard, Martin, Frederick, George, Valentine. Peter; the girls are Magdaline, now Mrs. Oller, of Spencer; Elizabeth. Mrs. Demus Summers, of Canaan Township, and Margaret, Mrs. Jacob Repmen, of Spencer. Canaan, Wayne Co., was the place the family settled, where they still remain, the seven brothers residing in the township, where they have remained since their arrival, which was when the country was of forest growth. The father, Barnhard, has long since gone to his rest, yet in his stead remain a hardy set of farmers, who have done him honor by their thrift and enterprise, and as worthy citizens of the community. Henry's father was Martin, the third of the family, who was married to Margaret Younker, who is likewise a native of the same locality as her husband;





her father's name was Jacob. Henry is the second of a family of six children; but four are now living, who are John, now of Canaan Township; Henry, our subject; William and Sarah of Canaan; Daniel and Mary died young. Henry, when of age, turned out for himself; was raised to hard labor, and began by the month, and worked on until the year 1863, when he was married, Dec. 23, to Julia A. Shook, born Nov. 26, 1846, in Guilford Township, being the fifth child of a family of nine children, who were born to George and Catharine (Walker) Shook, who were natives of Pennsylvania, and removed to Guilford when the country was new, and cleared up a farm. In the spring of 1869, Mr. Fetzer moved to the farm he now occupies, which he bought from A. Coover, which consists of 85 acres of choice farming land, which is chiefly the result of his own labor and judicious management. Himself and wife, as well as his father and uncles, are all members of the Reformed Church. To Mr. Fetzer have been born two sons—Elmer F. and Alvin M. Mrs. Fetzer's father, George, was twice married, she being the issue of the first marriage; six children in all, who are Phillip, Harriet, William, Edward, herself and Adaline.

JOSEPH H. FREEMAN, farmer; P. O. Seville. The Freeman family have borne a prominent part in the history of this township. Joseph was born on the farm on which he now lives, Jan. 8, 1826; he was a son of Rufus, whose father was likewise named Rufus; Joseph's father was born in Vermont State, and was married to Clarissa St. John, a native of Cortland Co., N. Y. Rufus, the elder, had moved and settled in Ashtabula Co.; subsequently his son, Rufus, Jr., came out by wagon in 1823. From Medina they reached what is now Seville, by the blazed trees, and cut a road into the place he located, now owned by Joseph H.; here he settled, and lived a life of usefulness; was a minister of the Baptist Church, also his father before him, who afterward became blind, and was a fluent and ready speaker, and was generally selected as the orator on Fourth of July occasions. Both of these gentlemen were pioneer ministers, and were instrumental in doing a great amount of good in their time, in administering to the spiritual wants of the pioneer members, for about forty years. Rufus, Jr., whose portrait appears in this work, was, for several years prior to his death,

President of the Farmers' Insurance Company. His efficiency as a ruling officer was fully attested by his long occupancy of that honored position. Our subject remained at home until 28 years of age; was married to Caroline Wilcox, who was born in 1827, in Lewis Co., N. Y., daughter of Thomas and Eliza (Ward) Wilcox, who came West in 1835. After leaving home, he removed to Scott Co., Iowa, where he purchased 360 acres of land, and engaged in farming and stock-raising. In 1861, he was among the number who responded to the nation's call for volunteers, and went out with Co. C, 2d Iowa Cavalry, and was afterward commissioned as Adjutant of the regiment, and did effective service. In 1875, on account of the decease of his father, the home farm was about to go into other hands, and desiring to retain the same in the family, he was constrained to dispose of his interest in Iowa, and returned to the place that gave him birth, where he will, in all probability, spend the remainder of his days. His farm consists of over 300 acres, and is one of the best in the township, excellent land, and farm premises being desirable for situation. Four children have been born to him, who are James A., now of Davenport, Iowa; Horace, Charles D. and Clara E. Farming and stock-raising has been the business of his life; keeps a choice stock of cattle of the Durham class. Mr. Freeman has always been a friend of progress, public-spirited and always ready to lend a helping hand to any worthy enterprise which promises to redound to the interests and common good of the community, always endeavoring to do his part as a good citizen, faithful friend and consistent Christian; has been liberal in his contributions to educational and charitable purposes. He and wife are both members of the Baptist Church. Politically, he has always been identified with the Republican party, yet is not partisan, but ever willing to abide by the expression of the majority as evinced by the result at the ballot-box.

ELISHA HAYES, farmer; P. O. Le Roy; was born Oct. 21, 1808, in Jefferson Co., Ohio. His parents were Thomas and Mary (McCoy) Hayes. He was born in 1776, in Baltimore Co., Md., she in Berkeley Co., Va., in 1778. Both the Hayeses and McCoy's are of Scotch descent. The grandparents of Elisha died of the plague when their offspring were young, hence but little, if anything, can be given of



their history. Thomas Hayes and wife emigrated to Jefferson Co., Ohio, in 1802, where they raised a family of twelve children, Elisha being the seventh. All of this number grew up; none died under 40 years of age. Elisha was a member of the household until he was 23 years of age. His father was in limited circumstances, and could not afford his children any pecuniary assistance, which threw them upon their own resources. Aug. 25, 1835, he became the husband of Jane McElroy, born Feb. 4, 1813, in Cross Creek Township, Jefferson Co., Ohio, daughter of James and Jane (Hallowell) McElroy, both born in Pennsylvania. He died in Washington Co. in 1870. James McElroy's father's name was William, who was born in Ireland, emigrated to this country when 8 years of age, and was a soldier in the war of 1812. Mr. Hayes came to Guilford Township in December, 1838, where he bought 40 acres of land and cleared it up, remaining there fifteen years. He then moved to Westfield Township, where he purchased 60 acres (which was settled by A. King), where he has settled for life. Six children have been born to him, but are now sleeping beneath the ground; William J. died at 16 months from birth; Thomas lived to be 9 years old; Mary died at 6; Alice when young. Three of the above named died in May, 1847, of scarlet fever, inside of three weeks. Lawrence died when very young; Alice M. was the wife of Richard Hogan; she died in 1866, leaving one child—Lawrence—then five weeks of age; he now resides with his grandparents, and will bear their name in the future. Mr. Hayes and wife are now spending the eve of their life in the enjoyment of their home, which has been secured through the exercise of hard labor and frugality. Reared in log-cabin times, schooled to privation, early in life he was taught self-denial, all of which have been conducive to his success. He has always acted independent of sects and denominations. Early in life, he was identified with the Whig party, and has always been a warm friend to the bondsman, and acted with the Abolition element, and later has been a Republican, and has ever acted the part of a worthy citizen and good neighbor.

AMBROSE HOUGHTON (deceased), whose portrait, with that of his wife, appears in this book, was born Sept. 4, 1788, in the town of Colerain, Hampshire Co., Mass.; he was the

son of Nathaniel and Anna (Stone) Houghton, both of whom were natives of the town of Roxbury, Mass. The Houghton family is descended from three brothers, John, Jonas and Ralph, who came early from England. This was a prominent family in the old country, and possessed a large estate, Houghton street in London, England, taking its name from this fact. This property has been in litigation for years, owing to the difficulty in tracing back the connection of the American branch of the family. The grandfather of our subject was Ebenezer Houghton, whose children were Nathaniel, Reuben, Oliver, Hannah, Jerusha and Rachel. Nathaniel's children were Oliver, Thomas, Nathaniel, Ambrose, Pattey, Prudy, Pollie, Roxie and Lucretia. Ambrose Houghton, Esq., was thus the fourth son in a family of nine children. He remained at home in Massachusetts until he was 20 years of age, when he went to the State of New York. Three years later, he went to Canada, but stayed only about eighteen months, when he returned to New York State. While in Canada, he was initiated into the mysteries of Masonry in the Prince Edward Lodge. He was very fond of the order, and, during the Morgan excitement, when his relation with the Baptist Church or with the lodge must be broken, he severed his connection with the church, though he had been a member since 1820. In 1832, he removed from New York to Ohio, settling in Westfield, where he lived until his death, Nov. 15, 1880. He was married, June 11, 1815, to Miss Lucy Powell, at Fabius, Onondaga Co., N. Y., by whom he had eight children, only two of whom are now living—Mrs. Elbridge Cole and Franklin A. Mrs. Ambrose Houghton died Jan. 27, 1876. She was born in Great Barrington, Mass., April 21, 1797, and was the daughter of John and Elizabeth (King) Powell. Elizabeth King's mother was Rebecca Nash, and her grandmother Experience Clark. Her parents died before she was 10 years of age, when she came to Fabius, N. Y., living with a sister until she was married, when she removed to Cortland, N. Y., where all her family were born. Mrs. Elbridge Cole was born Oct. 6, 1822, and lived with her father until his death. She was married, Jan. 13, 1862, to Elbridge Cole. He was the son of Ira and Susan (Hill) Cole, and was born in McDonough, Chenango Co., May 12, 1825. He





came with his parents, who were natives of New England, when a mere lad, and settled in Spencer. He died March 26, 1867, leaving a wife and two children—Martin E. and Oresta I. Mr. Houghton was a Royal Arch Mason, and was buried with Masonic honors.

**HALSEY HULBURT.** Some time before 1630, William Hulburt, a native of Wales, came to the United States and settled near Dorchester, Conn. He married, and from him sprang a hardy and intelligent race. One of his descendants—perhaps his grandchild—was Obadiah, the great-grandfather of the subject of this sketch. Obadiah, born in 1703, was the father of Obadiah, born in 1738, and the latter was the father of Obadiah, born March 9, 1769. On the 2d of April, 1805, the last-named married Rachel Burr, a near relative of the distinguished Aaron Burr, and to this union was born the following family: Halsey, born Jan. 27, 1806; Daniel B., born April 23, 1808, who is yet living at North Amherst, Lorain Co., Ohio, and William, born Dec. 20, 1810, who settled in Westfield Township, and died May 5, 1875. The father of Halsey died when the latter was but 8 years old, and soon afterward the boy was thrown upon his own resources, and began to carve his future from the busy world about him. He began teaching school when 20 years of age, and followed that occupation eight winters. In 1830, he came to Westfield, where he spent the summer in company of Mr. Chapin, the two, in the meantime, "underbrushing" 17 acres. In the fall of 1830, he returned to Connecticut, where he passed the winter, and there was united in marriage with Miss Betsey, the daughter of Thomas and Abigail (Brown) Moses. Mrs. Hulburt is the only member of her father's family of five sons and five daughters now living. In the spring of 1831, Mr. Hulburt and wife moved to Westfield Township, Medina Co., Ohio. Here the husband and wife began their married life in a rude log cabin, and, for many long years, they shared together the bitter experiences of pioneer life. After the lapse of many years, and after countless trials and denials, they have a comfortable home in which to pass their declining days. Eight children have been born to them as follows: Julia, William, Mary, Hiram, Obadiah, Rachael, William and Eleanor. All are dead except Julia, William and May. The latter is the wife of H. E. Matteson, and Will-

iam became the husband of Caroline Chambers. To the last couple have been born the following children: Flora, May and Harold C. Hiram was killed by a threshing machine when a boy, Julia and William are living at the old home. Mr. Hulburt served as Township Trustee several years, and, in 1856, was elected to the responsible position of Director of the Ohio Farmers' Insurance Company, in which two capacities he served with fidelity and honor. He was formerly a Whig, and was one of three in Westfield to cast the first vote for the Anti-slavery party. He has been a Republican, is at present a Liberal, and has always been identified with movements to advance the interests of education and morals.

**JOHN HYATT,** farmer; P. O. Burbank; born near Williamstown, Oswego Co., N. Y., July 19, 1828. The eldest child born to his parents, Valentine and Rachel (Devereaux) Hyatt, to whom were born seven children. This couple were born in 1799 and 1802 respectively, in same county and State. The Hyatt family descended from the Emerald Isle. The Devereauxs, as the name implies, are of French extraction. The family emigrated West in 1850, and have since been residents of this township. Soon after John came to this county, he set about planning for himself, and, having nothing to commence with save a pair of willing hands, he at once resolved that, as he was the architect of his own fortunes, the sooner he set about its construction, the earlier his expectations would be realized. He was not adverse to labor, and began with a right good will, and betook to any labor that promised the most satisfactory returns. At the age of 26, he was married to Sarah Shaw, born in Steuben Co., Ohio, in 1833; daughter of Otis and Sallie (Day) Shaw; their marriage was celebrated April, 1856. After marriage, he located in this township, upon land that he had previously purchased; remaining upon it a short time, he sold out, after making several minor changes; he moved to Steuben Co., Ind., purchasing 75 acres of land, which he owned a short time; then returned and located in October, 1870, on the land he now owns, situated in the southwest part of the township, consisting of 97 acres, formerly owned by Henry Baldwin; lost his wife in February, 1867, leaving two children—Otis T. and George. Feb. 25, 1868, he was married to Jane Stone, born Oct. 16, 1831, in



Jefferson Co., Ohio. She was a daughter of William and Anna (Elliot) Stone, both of Irish descent. Mrs. Hyatt was the second of a family of four children, herself and three brothers. To Mr. and Mrs. Hyatt have been born two children—Anna and Jennie. He and wife are both members of the United Brethren Church. In the earlier part of his life, was identified with the Democratic party, but of late years has affiliated with the Republican party.

S. S. HASTINGS, farmer; P. O. Seville. According to tradition, in the year 1636, three brothers bearing the name of Hastings, came from England and settled in Plymouth Colony. From these have sprung a numerous progeny, now widely dispersed throughout the country. One of these brothers was named "White" Hastings from the color of his hair; from this one sprung the Hastings so noted as composers of music. The two other brothers settled in Hampshire Co., Mass., and were among the prominent and substantial citizens of that commonwealth. In 1703, when the town of Deerfield was burned by the French and Indians, one Hinsdell Hastings was carried away captive by the Indians. In 1753, when the town of Greenfield was organized, Benjamin Hastings was chosen Moderator and Town Clerk, Constable and "Sealer of Leather," and was for many years Deacon of the church. In the Revolutionary struggle, the Hastings family bore a prominent part. The reader is referred to Willard's "History of Greenfield," where may be found an account of the events succeeding the reception of the news of the battle of Lexington, in which especial reference is made to some members of the family. The father and grandfather of our subject were in the battle of Bunker Hill, and present at Burgoyne's surrender. After the war, he settled with his sons upon a large farm in Greenfield, and lived until the age of 80. S. S. Hastings, our subject, was born March 10, 1800. His father's name was Oliver, who was born in Massachusetts in 1764, and afterward became the husband of Dolley Carey. To them were born eight children, six sons and two daughters, S. S. being next to the youngest. His brothers Richard, States, Warren and Onesimus were soldiers in the war of 1812. Benjamin, the grandfather of S. S., was Lieutenant and afterward Captain in the Revolutionary war. His son Oliver was only 15 years of age when he

was in the battle of Bunker Hill, and, at one time, had a narrow escape from being captured by the Indians. A party of thirteen were cutting hay and were surprised by the Indians, all of the party being captured save two. His grand ancestor was of the twain. At the age of 17, S. S. was apprenticed to learn the wagon-making and carpenter's trade. After the completion of which, he went to Jefferson Co., N. Y., and set up in business as wagon-maker, having no capital to start with. Feb. 22, 1822, he was married to Miss Clarissa Fitch, who was a native of Delaware Co., N. Y., born July 26, 1799, daughter of Col. Silas Fitch, whose wife was Clarissa Howell. In the spring of 1837, Mr. Hastings emigrated West to this State, locating in this county, first in Guilford Township; subsequently to the southern part of the township, where he now resides; where he purchased 230 acres, having now 168 in all. For over sixty years Mr. Hastings has been a consistent member of the Baptist Church; for twenty-five years has been Deacon, and been active and zealous in his Master's cause. The fruits of his marriage, aside from the acquisition of a good home and a competence, have been nine children, of whom five are living, viz., Clarissa, now the wife of A. Feazel, of Harrisville Township; Sidney, in Gratiot Co., Mich.; Russell J., at home with parents; Esther, Mrs. O. Graves, of Merrick, Neb.; Emeline, of Pike Station, Wayne Co., Ohio, the wife of J. A. Dyer; Silas, the eldest son, lost his life before Vicksburg; was a member of the Engineer Corps from Michigan. Feb. 22, 1872, Mr. Hastings celebrated his golden wedding, and is yet in good degree of health, and is a constant worker. He has been a worthy and substantial member of society and community at large; has been liberal in his contributions to charitable, church and educational purposes, and a staunch and useful citizen, and will be long remembered.

A. H. HAWLEY, insurance, Le Roy; is a native of this State, born Dec. 14, 1840, in Worthington, Franklin Co. His parents were A. G. and Helen M. (Brown) Hawley. The former was born Aug. 18, 1814, in Madison Co., Ohio, son of Dr. Gideon Hawley, a native of Vermont, who emigrated West to this State in the early part of the present century, locating in Madison Co. He had three children born him, viz.: A. G., Micah and Mary. One





only of the number is living—Micah, in Canada. Helen M. Brown, the mother of Amos H., was born at Haverhill, N. H. A. G. Hawley moved to this county and settled in Seville in 1849, remaining there until 1857, when he moved to Westfield, and the following year was elected Secretary of the Ohio Farmers' Insurance Company, and served until the fall of 1866. Amos H., our subject, has, since his youth, been identified with the county. He received the advantages afforded in the schools of Seville, and a thorough commercial business education at Duff's College, Pittsburgh. Returning, he became his father's successor in 1866, and has since filled that position with credit to himself and to the satisfaction of the patrons. Oct. 16, 1867, he married Sarah E. Phillips, born Feb. 13, 1848, in this township, daughter of Ellery and Ellen (Doty) Phillips, who were natives of New York, and were among the early settlers in the township. Mr. Hawley has three children—Frank H., born May 24, 1869; Emma N., born Sept. 1, 1870; Robert A., born Aug. 16, 1877. Mr. Hawley's parents were, for many years, members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. A. H. and wife are of the same faith. Mr. Hawley is an enthusiastic member of the Masonic Order, having been advanced thirty-two degrees; member of Harrisville Lodge, No. 137, A., F. & A. M.; Medina Chapter, the Commandery at Massillon, of Eliadah, Grand Lodge of Perfection of Bahurim Council of the Princes of Jerusalem, Ariel Chapter of Rose Croix at Cleveland, and also of the Orient of Ohio, of Cincinnati, Ohio (located).

WILLIAM H. H. JONES, farmer and stock-raiser; P. O. Friendsville; born in this township Oct. 25, 1840; is the youngest of a family of six children; all grew to maturity, save one; names of children are Eleanor J., now Mrs. G. W. Collier, of Dakota; Chaplain in the United States Army; Julia, now Mrs. Ezra Boothe; A. P., now a minister of the North Ohio Conference; Nathan S., who died in the service of his country, at Cumberland Gap, was a member of the 86th O. V. L.; Sylvanus, died young; all of whom were born to Sylvanus and Elvira (Hossington) Jones. He was born in Bristol, Mass., May 8, 1794, and removed with his parents to Oswego Co., N. Y., and to Wayne Co. in 1820. In 1821, he was married to Miss Hossington, and settled in this county and

township in 1831, on the farm now owned by George Berry, where he remained until the death of his second wife, March 17, 1864; then lived with his children until his demise, which occurred at the home of our subject in February, 1880. He was during his life a successful business man, and gave liberally to the church and to all benevolent enterprises; was a valued and worthy member of society; was a man of character, decided and firm in his purposes of action, and a friend to the poor and the bondman; his trust in his Maker was firm and unwavering, and died in the triumphs of a living faith, exclaiming as his feet touched the "chilling wave," "All is bright." "The Lord is my Shepherd"—Rev., xiv, 13—was the text preached from at his funeral. His wife preceeded him June 14, 1845. William H. H. being the youngest, remained at home. At the age of 20, he enlisted, 1861, in Co. I, 2d O. V. L., and serving in the Western Department until February 1863, when he was discharged on account of disability from brain fever, induced by sunstroke. Upon his return home, he resumed labor on the farm. Nov. 26, same year, he was united in matrimony to Adaline Rogers, born in Harrisville Township, being the youngest child of Isaac and Anna (Brainard) Rogers, who were pioneers in that township. The old family Bible tells the following tale: Isaac Rogers, born Feb. 3, 1794; Anna Brainard, April 8, 1801; Amanda, May 18, 1820; Clarissa, Dec. 25, 1821; Isaac, July 25, 1824; James O., Sept. 10, 1826; Sherman, Sept. 4, 1829; Sylvanus, Sept. 18, 1832; Cordidon, April 20, 1838; Henrietta, Dec. 20, 1840; Adaline, April 23, 1843. Mr. Jones has 175 acres, which he keeps stocked with sheep of a good quality. He is an official member of the M. E. Church at Lodi; experienced religion at the age of 12. His children are Frank S., Carrie B., Willis C. and Carl Shurz. Mr. Jones is a true and loyal Republican and an enterprising member of the community.

GEORGE KUDER, farmer; P. O. Chippewa Lake; born April 21, 1822, in Columbiana Co., Penn. His parents were Adam and Esther (Pealer) Kuder, to whom were born twelve children; our subject being the third in order of birth; of the number born, ten lived to be grown. The number living and places of residence are as follows: Susanna, Mrs. George Traver, in Iowa; Sylvester and George, in Clinton Co., Iowa; Eli, in St. Joseph Co., Mich.;



Barbara, Mrs. Theodore Bucher, in Cleveland; Adam, in New York; Sarah, Mrs. Frank Mack, of Cleveland. The grandfather of our subject, on the Kuder side, was George. He was born in Germany, and emigrated to Pennsylvania when he was young, the country being almost in a wilderness condition. Here he settled, and grew up with the county, and raised a numerous progeny. Sixteen children were the fruits of his marriage. About the year 1835, in the early part, George came West with his parents, who selected Sharon Township as their place of settlement, purchasing 100 acres, for which he paid \$800. Raised upon a farm from his youth, our subject, after becoming his "own man," took to farming as a life business, which he has since followed. Mr. Kuder has been twice married; his union with his first wife was of short duration. Her name was Matilda Woolford, a native of Wayne Co., Ohio, who died eleven months after marriage, leaving no issue. March 22, 1819, he was married to his present wife, whose name was Sarah J. Frank, who was born in Canaan Township, Wayne Co., Ohio, Jan. 7, 1828, of a family of seven brothers and two sisters, eight of the number grew to be men and women. She was the eldest of the number. Of those living are Daniel, in Wayne; Mary E. Mrs. Daniel Collier, of Summit Co.; Isaiah, in Wadsworth; Henry A., in Summit, and Hughes, in Sharon Township. Mrs. Kuder's father was one of the pioneers in that county; his name was Peter Frank; her mother's maiden name was Nancy Ball; he was born June 23, 1789, in Washington Co., Penn.; she was born in Maryland, and went to Pennsylvania when young. Mrs. Kuder was rocked in a sap-trough. Her father walked out from Pennsylvania and entered the land from the Government, and cleared up a farm in the woods. He lived until Feb. 8, 1872. She died March 23, 1864. Both were members of the Reformed Church. Mr. Kuder's parents were members of the Lutheran Church. He died June, 1858, at the age of 63. Mr. Kuder has now 170 acres of land, and in state of cultivation. His commencement in life was like many others who came West. He was poor; had nothing to begin with for the first three years. He rented land; finally purchased about 90 acres in the northeast part of the township, and, by diligence and careful management, assisted by his prudent wife, he has made a competence for himself and family during the

thirty years of his residence in the township. Of four children born them, but two are living—Ada L. and Marcia May. Both Mr. and Mrs. Kuder are members of the Presbyterian Church.

NATHAN MINER, farmer; P. O. Pike Station; born March 8, 1810, in the town of Milton, Saratoga Co., N. Y.; was the youngest of a family of five children. His parents were Asa and Ruth (Barrass) Miner; he was a native of Connecticut; she, of Saratoga. After several years' residence in Saratoga Co., they removed to Truxton, Cortland Co., where they lived until 1825, when they emigrated West, which journey occupied nineteen days and a half, locating in this township, west of Seville one mile, on the farm now owned by Halsey Hulburt. Their journey from Medina to their stopping-place was attended with difficulties, in consequence of the primitive condition of the roads. Remaining here about five years, they finally moved farther south, where they remained until their death. Nathan's father was a farmer, but was unable to give his children much, if any, financial aid. Hence Nathan embarked for himself at his majority; with ax in hand, he took jobs clearing off timber. For cutting, clearing and fencing, he would receive \$10 per acre for his labor. He continued at this business for several years, working both in this and in Wayne Co. in different townships. While at the business, he was enabled to acquire means to make a purchase of 70 acres of land, for which he paid \$3.50 per acre, where he now resides, which was unimproved. Building him a log cabin, he opened warfare against his woody surroundings, and was afterward rewarded by the garnered products from off the cultivated fields as the fruits of his toil and hardy endurance. At the age of 27, he was married to Rosetta Stanford, born April 2, 1817, in Jefferson Co., N. Y. She was a daughter of William and Rebecca (Eastman) Stanford, to whom were born eight children. Three children have crowned the union of Mr. and Mrs. Miner. But two are living—Helen M., now Mrs. Samuel Benjamin, and Emily C., now Mrs. Myron G. Owen. Mrs. Miner came out with her parents in 1822, who located in the northwest part of the township. Mr. Miner has ever been a worthy member of society, a good man and an accommodating neighbor. Having divided out some of his land to his children, he has 40 acres left, and valuable





property at Pike Station—good house and lot and 17 acres.

MRS. EMMA MEAD, farming; P. O. Burbank; born in Massillon, Stark Co., Ohio, in January, 1843, daughter of Michael and Sarah (Earl) Rinder. Michael Rinder was a native of Germany, emigrating to this State at the age of 21, and was married to his wife, who was a native of Tennessee. To them were born seven children, Emma being the sixth in order of birth. The family were raised in Stark Co., where they were born. Mrs. Mead's parents died when she was young, and was thus left without any paternal counselors. In 1867, she was united by marriage to Ezra M. Mead, whose name she now bears, who was a native of New York State—place of nativity, near Rochester—and came West at the close of the late war. He was among the successful farmers of the township; was a man highly respected as a good neighbor and substantial citizen; he died June 6, 1877. Since his death, Mrs. Mead has remained on the farm, which she conducts in a creditable manner, having, since his death, purchased 92 acres known as the George Bowman farm. She has recently built a neat and substantial dwelling, where she and her son Ezra reside in comfort and comparative retirement.

GEORGE McCracken, farmer; P. O. Leroy; was born in Franklin Co., Penn., in 1820, and came West in 1848, locating on the farm he now owns. He was married in Pennsylvania, March 5, 1840, to Hannah Byers, who was born May 2, 1824, five miles east of Chambersburg, in Franklin Co., Penn.; is a daughter of Frederick and Anna (Ebey) Byers; both were born in Pennsylvania, in the year 1768. The McCrackens are of Irish extraction. The parents of George were Thomas and Polly (Gates) McCracken. He was born in Franklin Co., and received good school advantages, which were improved; afterward, was engaged as teacher for several years; was a man of good information, and had well-defined ideas of business, in which he was very successful. He came West in 1846, making his first stop in Canaan Township, Wayne Co., remaining a short time, locating permanently in this township, where he lived until removed by death, which occurred in 1875. Upon his arrival in this county, he made several land purchases, in Canaan, Westfield and Harrisville Townships; was a good financier, and went upon the ready-

pay principle; was not a member of any orthodox church, yet was in favor of Christianity; generally attended church, and gave liberally toward their support, and was a solid man in the community. Of eight children born to our subject, five are living, viz., William, now of Jasper Co., Mo.; of those yet at home are Anna, Lizzie, Frank and Fred.

OLIVER MORTON, farmer; P. O. Leroy. Prominently identified with the early history of this township is the Morton family. Oliver, whose portrait appears in this book, was born in Allegheny Co., Penn., May 15, 1819, and came West with his parents, on horseback, when he was 3 weeks old. His father had been out two years previous, and returned to Pennsylvania and made preparations for removing his family. Oliver's father's name was John J. Morton, a native of Chester Co., Penn., and a near relative of the Morton whose signature appears on the Declaration of Independence. John J. was married to Jane Oliver, and by her had seven children, among whom was Fannie, the first white child born in this township. Oliver's father made his first settlement at Morse's Corners, where he purchased 40 acres of land, which was, as the surrounding country, all a dense mass of heavy timber. Oliver's father was a poor man, and, early in life, our subject learned to "rough it," and, at the age of 13, he was thrown upon his own resources. For the first pair of leather shoes he ever wore, he paid \$1.75, which money he earned by cutting cord-wood at 18 cents per cord. Their diet was of the plainest character—corn bread three times a day—and he quaintly remarked, that to such an extent did they use this diet, that he "was almost ashamed to look a hog square in the face." His school advantages were such as the backwoods afforded, attending a few days each year. Their desks and seats were of the rudest kind imaginable; the light admitted through crevices in the logs, or greased paper, in the place of window-lights. He was glad to receive 89 per month for his labor, and has swung "Armstrong's reaper" many a long day for 75 cents. At the age of 25, he was married to Delilah McConkey, who was born in Doylestown, Wayne Co., July 4, 1820, daughter of Samuel and Samantha McConkey, who were among the early settlers in that county, Ohio. Mr. Morton made his first purchase of land at Westfield Center, of



55 acres at \$13 per acre, and, while it was freely predicted that he would never pay for it, every payment was promptly met. He bought him a team of horses and a wagon for \$90; hired out, working at \$1.25 per day, thus enabling him to meet his payments. Since that time, he has made several additions and changes, until he has become forehanded. Later in life, he engaged in stock-trading, buying and selling cattle, hogs and sheep, at which he was successful. His wife died April 3, 1861, leaving six children, five living—Charlotte; Harriet, now Mrs. Allen McCabe; George; Frank and Johnnie. In 1869, he was married to Mrs. Jane Hickeyard, born in September, 1833, in Wayne Co. Mr. Morton has always borne a prominent part as a citizen in the township in which he has so long been a resident. Democratic from a political standpoint, yet he has never been a radical or an extremist in his views, but decided and positive in his opinions. In theory and practice, he has been a Temperance man—has yet to drink his first glass of whisky or intoxicating liquor. He has for several years been a member of the M. E. Church, adorning the same by an upright walk consistent with his profession. Since 1858, he has been an efficient member of the Board of Directors of the Ohio Farmers' Insurance Company, one of the most worthy and prominent institutions of the county. For a further account of the same, see township history of Westfield.

B. B. NORTON, farmer; P. O. Burbank; is one of the pioneers of this township. Born Aug. 15, 1807, in Litchfield Co., Conn. His parents were Miles and Lois (McNeil) Norton. Miles was born Dec. 6, 1775, and was married June 1, 1797, to Lois McNeil, who was born Dec. 5, 1779. To them were born ten children, B. B. being the sixth. This venerable couple died May 25, 1835 and 1843, respectively. Lois McNeil's father was named Isaac, and was born in 1748, May 23, and was married Jan. 24, 1771, to Lois Baldwin, who was born Feb. 29, 1752, and died, respectively, Sept. 20, 1839, and May 14, 1843. Our subject emigrated West with his parents in 1823, he being a lad of 15. His father purchased 643 acres, all of which was unscathed by the woodman's ax. Their nearest neighbors were the red men of the forest; bears, wolves and wild game "roamed the woodland o'er." The family came out in a wagon, which was their carriage by day and their

house at night. B. B. now resides upon a portion of the land his father settled. In 1833, our subject was married to Emily Ward, who was a native of Canada. By this marriage, six children were born; of those living, are Samuel, Charles, David, George and Anna A. Wife died in 1855. His present wife was Clarissa Rogers, who was born December, 1821, in Harrisville Township, the second child of Isaac and Anna (Brainard) Rogers, who were among the earliest settlers in that township. Isaac was born Feb. 3, 1794, near Hartford, Conn., and was married July 8, 1819. To them were born ten children; eight of the number lived to be grown. Mr. Rogers was 4 years of age when his father died. He then moved with his mother to Cayuga Co., N. Y., remaining there until he came West. Came with a horse and sleigh in 1817, with Squire Pitts, and boarded with Judge Harris until he built him a cabin, returned East, got married, and returned in 1819. Their commencement was with furniture of the rudest sort. Mrs. Norton was lulled to sleep in a sap-trough. Her mother had but three sheets when they set up house-keeping. Mr. Rogers being a hard-working man and a good manager, he had accumulated, at the time of his death, 700 acres of land. He died Feb. 3, 1861; wife, Oct. 30, 1847. To Mr. and Mrs. Norton has been born one child—Ida C., now the wife of Andrew Reynolds, of this township. Mr. Norton has been a soldier of the cross for fifty-two years. Experienced religion at the age of 19, at camp meeting, and soon after identified himself with the M. E. Church, and for many years afterward was Class-leader, and is now like a shock of corn fully ripe, and fit for the Master's use. Since the dissolution of the Whig party, he has been a member of the Republican. Sent two sons to the war, who served three years—George B., in 103d O. V. I., and Lauren D., in 124th O. V. I., and were true and valorous soldiers, and imperiled their lives in many hard-fought battles of the war in defense of their country. Mr. Norton is yet residing on the same land his father settled. He has 160 acres, and Mrs. Norton 75, in her own right, and are spending the evening of their lives in the quiet of their pleasant home.

S. H. POMEROY, retired farmer. Samuel H. Pomeroy was born March 15, 1810, in Bristol, Ontario Co., N. Y. His parents were Sam-





uel and Penelope (Allen) Pomeroy, who were natives of Connecticut. To them were born ten children, whose names are Allen, Elisha, Mary S., Lucy, Penelope, Urina, Moses, Cynthia, Hannah and Richard The Allens and Pomeroy's are of English extraction. Samuel was raised to farming, and, at the age of 21, he began working by the month, continuing four years thus employed. In 1833, he came West and took up a piece of land (127 acres) in this township, which was unimproved. Returning to New York that fall, he remained until the spring of 1835, when he retraced his steps to his wilderness home. In June of the same year, he married Almira Simmons, who was born in Ontario Co., N. Y., in October, 1810, who was a daughter of Jonathan and Ruth (Gooding) Simmons. Having erected a log cabin, he moved into the same in September. His place of settlement was in the northwest part of the township, now owned by Mr. Unangst. Mr. Pomeroy continued on this purchase for about twenty years, and afterward made a purchase of 75 acres, remaining here until 1863. He then went to La Fayette Township, where he had charge of the County Infirmary for seven years. Then sold his farm and purchased a small farm in Montville Township, where he lived three years; then located in Westfield Center, where he has since lived. His wife died in 1873. By her he had five children, who are Allen, Ruth, Mary, Jonathan and Simpson. March 23, 1874, he was married to Mrs. Christina Hicox, born in April, 1821, in Ontario Co., N. Y., whose maiden name was Allen. Her mother's name, prior to her marriage, was Ruth Simmons. Mrs. Pomeroy's first husband was a King, and by him she had four children. Mr. Pomeroy and wife now reside in their comfortable home, enjoying the eve of their life in contentment and happiness. Few men in the county have been more prominently associated in an official way with their township than Mr. P. He has served as Infirmary Superintendent, Justice of the Peace, Township Trustee, Constable, Assessor, and now as one of the Directors of the Ohio Farmers' Insurance Company. He is one of the Trustees of the Universalist Church, and was one of its first members, and has ever sustained the character of an honest man and worthy citizen, and a loyal and true Republican.

N. N. REESE, farmer and fish propagator; P. O. Le Roy; was born in Sharon Township, this county, April 2, 1844. Twelve children were born to his parents, nine of the number now living—William, and Aurelia, now Mrs. L. Frazier, in La Fayette; Jeannette, Mrs. J. Hamilton, in Sullivan Co., Mo.; N. N., in Westfield; Laverna, Egbert and Freeborn, in Wadsworth; Lauren, in Montville; also Clara, Mrs. Watters; Franklin F., Gertrude and Fremont were the number born to Jacob N. and Jane S. (Phelps) Reese. Jacob was the son of Nicholas Reese. Jacob Reese was born June 20, 1814; his wife, May 22, 1820. The Reese family are supposed to be descended from Hollanders. The Phelps are of Yankee stock. Both families emigrated West many years ago, and were among the first settlers in Summit Co. Here Nicholas died. His son Jacob, after leaving Summit Co., located in Sharon Township, where he purchased 100 acres in the "Woods;" built a double log house in the forest. Soon after its erection, one Hamilton occupied one end, he the other. One night in a storm, a huge oak blew down, falling directly between the two rooms in the open court, and, fortunately, no one was injured, but most terribly frightened. Subsequently, he moved to Wadsworth, and purchased the Hard farm; still later, the Phelps homestead. He made several changes, and finally settled in Guilford Township, where he now resides. Newton was raised to farming; his boyhood days were spent at school, and making himself useful in assisting in the home duties. July 4, 1863, enlisted in Co. G, 86th O. V. I.; served eight months. During this time, was in active service in and about Cumberland Gap, and assisted in capturing that famous raider, John Morgan. Upon his return home, he was married, July 4, 1864, to Maria Beck, who was born in Northampton Co., Penn., Oct. 12, 1846, whose parents were Joseph and Eliza (Long) Beck, who came West in 1851, and located in Guilford Township, on the River Styx, where he now resides. Mrs. Beck died Dec. 24, 1874, at the age of 53. Mrs. Reese is of a family of seven children, five sisters and two brothers, she being the third in order of birth, all of them now living. Since Newton was married, he has made several changes. He was burned out once, losing all his house chattels. In 1876, purchased the old Henry farm, one mile east of the Center, and is engaged in farming and in fish culture. In



1878, began the growth and propagation of gold-fish. He has four ponds, and is making the business his study, and intends to engage in this enterprise upon a large scale, and is now prepared to fill orders for large or small quantities, and is awakening considerable interest in the minds of the people who have a taste for golden finny species as house ornaments. He keeps glass globes of all sizes, and can supply aquariums to order, and at reduced prices. He has four children, viz., Melville R., Minnie L., Jeannette M. and Maggie M. He and wife are members of the Lutheran Church. In matters of politics, the Reese family are all strongly Republican.

S. R. RICHARDS, insurance; Le Roy. The efficient Postmaster of this township is Samuel R. Richards, who was born June 25, 1817, in Coventry Township, Chenango Co., N. Y.; son of Gideon and Mehitable (Hungerford) Richards, who were natives of Connecticut. Gideon was the son of Noah, who was a son of Samuel R., who was the great-grandfather of our subject. Noah was a hatter by occupation, as was his son Gideon; the latter was the head of a family consisting of eleven children, Samuel R. being the youngest of the number. Of those who arrived to maturity, besides S. R., were Emily, Eliza, Maria and Susan. Gideon removed to Chenango Co. from Connecticut, after the war of 1812; remained until 1819, when he moved to Tyler Co., Va.; 1823, emigrated to Medina Co., with his family. Medina at this time had two or three frame buildings. Remaining in Medina a short time, the family removed to Akron, Summit Co., at the time of the building of the Ohio Canal. Gideon Richards died Oct. 23, 1827, aged 55, and was buried near where the college now stands. He was a member of the Masonic order the greater part of his life; while at Medina, was Secretary of the Lodge, his son, Samuel R., having his apron now in his possession, which was made in 1812. His wife died March 15, 1851, aged 72. Samuel went to learn the blacksmith's trade in 1832, at Brunswick; completing the same, worked one year at journey work; 1839, set up for himself, remaining there until 1842; afterward worked two years in Liverpool Township; 1844, he came to Westfield Township, and since has made it his constant place of residence, working at his trade until 1855; since that date has been in

the insurance business, in the employ of the Ohio Farmers' Insurance Co. and, with one exception, is one of their oldest agents. His territory is Crawford Co. and part of Huron; is one of the company's successful agents; since November, 1862, was appointed Postmaster, and has since served in that capacity, and through his efforts and good management, the people are enjoying the luxury of a daily mail. Nov. 16, 1839, he was married to Amy Eggleston, by whom he has had seven children, who are Maria, now Mrs. John C. Ramsey; William G., in Westfield; George I., in Page Co., Iowa; Albert, in Bucyrus, Crawford Co.; Irwin (deceased), and Cora. Mr. Richards has ever been a consistent and enthusiastic supporter of Republican principles, cast his first vote for Joseph Vance. Universalist in doctrine, has been the Recording Clerk of his church many years, and a member of the A., F. & A. M. since 1857. Mr. Richards has always sustained in the community the character of an upright man and worthy citizen of the commonwealth.

PETER RICE, farmer; P. O. Le Roy; was born Nov. 26, 1813, in Lehigh Co., Penn., of a family of ten children—five boys and five girls—whose parents were Henry and Elizabeth (Sipes) Rice, who were natives of Lehigh Co., near Allentown, and moved to Butler Co., 1815, where they remained permanently. July 14, 1839, Mr. Rice was married to Elizabeth Weiz, who was born May 9, 1818, in Butler Co., Penn., daughter of Jacob and Catharine (Boyer) Weiz, who were natives of Bucks Co., and had nine children, six of whom grew to maturity. Mr. Rice was raised to hard labor—had not the advantages now afforded the young, he grew up without any education. After his marriage he had nothing to begin with, except his hands, which he industriously employed—worked out by the month and day, at low wages, cutting cord-wood at 25¢ per cord, threshing rye with a flail for the ninth bushel; thus he labored on for several years, and with the assistance of his faithful wife, he was enabled to accumulate sufficient means to purchase some land, his first being 35 acres, afterward adding 10; kept the same several years; sold it and bought 71, which he afterward sold and bought 101 of his father-in-law, which he owned until November, 1865, when he emigrated to this county, locating where he now resides; has got a good farm, consisting of 80 acres, at





Westfield Center; has good improvements, having recently built a substantial barn and rebuilt and remodeled his house, having now an excellent home, in which to enjoy the remainder of his days. To him have been born eleven children, eight of whom are living, who are Jacob, now in Butler Co., Penn., born May 5, 1840; Hannah, born March 16, 1844; Lizzie, born Jan. 28, 1847; Katie, born 1849; Henry, born Sept. 17, 1854; George, born Sept. 30, 1856; Julia, born March 20, 1858; Mary, born Oct. 4, 1859; children all married and doing for themselves, with the exception of the youngest, who is unmarried and is one of the teachers of the township.

ANDREW R. REYNOLDS, farmer; P. O. Leroy; is of the fourth generation of the name, who have descended from one John Reynolds, who was a fisherman from Marblehead, Mass., and who was born in the year 1743. From him descended the grandfather of our subject, Joseph Reynolds, who was born Oct. 12, 1775, and was married to Rebecca Jaquith, who was born July 9, 1782, and were married Nov. 11, 1802. To them were born five children, the eldest being Joseph, Jr., the father of our subject, who was born Sept. 20, 1804, and was married to Harriet Henderson. The Reynolds family emigrated West in October, 1831, where Joseph purchased about 200 acres of land in the west part of the township, a portion of which is now owned by Andrew. He was a shoemaker by trade, and, for some years after his arrival, plied his trade, which vocation he taught his son—Joseph, Jr. His son first made a short stay at Morse's Corners, then moved to La Fayette Township, where he took up a piece of the "Fowler land," remaining there a short time, he abandoned it and removed to this township, where he finally located on a portion of the land his father had purchased, and settled permanently. Here Andrew was born, where he now resides, Aug. 7, 1851; is the youngest of a family of nine children, eight of whom grew up—Joseph, Jr., died March 24, 1863; his wife, Harriet, died Oct. 24, 1877, aged 68 years 4 months and 13 days; Joseph, Sr., died Feb. 15, 1853. Andrew R. was married Dec. 25, 1879, to Ida C. Rogers, born Feb. 3, 1858; daughter of B. B. and Clarissa (Rogers) Norton, both of whom are early residents of this county. Andrew and wife are members of the Universalist Church, and is now engaged in farming.

S. SIMMONS, farmer; P. O. Le Roy; is among the worthy representatives of Westfield Township, who have been associated with its interests for nearly one-half a century, and has, since 1832, been a constant resident of the farm he now owns. He was born in Bristol, Ontario Co., N. Y., Oct. 10, 1805; son of Jonathan and Ruth (Gooding) Simmons. The old family Bible has the following record: Jonathan Simmons, born Jan. 31, 1768; Ruth Gooding, born Feb. 20, 1769. Their children were, Ruth S., born March 25, 1792; Lucy, born Jan. 24, 1794; Jonathan, born March 24, 1796; Isaiah, born Oct. 23, 1799; Simpson, born March 24, 1802; Sally, born Aug. 20, 1803; Simpson, born Oct. 10, 1805; Harriet, born Dec. 20, 1807; Elmina, born Oct. 16, 1810; Erastus, born Sept. 16, 1814. The Simmons family are of English descent, as were the Goodings. The first arrival of the Simmons family in Westfield Township was in 1820, by Jonathan, the brother of the above, who settled and cleared up the farm now owned by Isaac Jones; afterward removed West, where he died. The grandfather of Simpson was Constance Simpson; he was in the Revolution, and was born in Dighton, Bristol Co., Mass., and there raised his family. Simpson was married in April, 1832, to Sallie Austin, who was a daughter of Levi and Sarah (Mack) Austin, natives of Massachusetts. The Simmons family came from Maine to Massachusetts, and were mostly engaged in the lumber business. Simpson emigrated West with his father in 1832, who located where Erastus now lives. Simpson, having bought 50 acres where he now lives, remained with his father until he had erected a rude cabin, with one door, which he soon occupied, and, notwithstanding its home-made furniture and rough interior, he lived happily for years. The first year, he put in 3 acres of wheat; the next year 4 acres of corn, which the coons and other denizens of the woods harvested for him; could not raise enough to support his family; worked out by the day at excessively low wages, taking barter in exchange. For wheat, 3 shillings per bushel was all they could realize for it, and trade it out. He has a butcher-knife in his possession, for which he worked hard one day; said knife had no handle, being made by the blacksmith; he afterward added 50 acres more. Mr. Simmons has been a man of excellent health



and of strong constitution, industrious and economical in his habits, and has accumulated a deal of property; yet, through bailing, he has lost several thousands of dollars, yet has a good farm of 150 acres of good land, and, although he has passed the time allotted to mankind, he is now in the enjoyment of his quiet home, and is held in high regard by all those with whom he has been associated. Has always been a man of retiring disposition, been a lover of books and instructive literature, and, though he never had the advantages of a good education, yet he has always been in favor of education, and always been ready to contribute liberally toward school and church purposes. Politically, he is a Democrat of the Jeffersonian school, yet never took an active part in political matters, yet has always been firm and decided in his opinions, which he rarely failed to give expression to at the ballot box. In religious matters, he has always been of the Universalist faith. Has three daughters—Lucretia, now Mrs. J. P. Olin; Lydia, Mrs. J. Branard, and Adaline, now Mrs. Ayers Alexander.

MRS. BENJAMIN SHAW, retired, Le Roy; is the relict of Benjamin Shaw, who was one of the prominent farmers and highly esteemed citizens of Westfield Township, who was born Dec. 1, 1815, in Chenango Co., N. Y.; his father's name was Benjamin F., who died when his son was a small lad, who emigrated to this State with his mother and grandfather, Benjamin F., who raised his grandson to mature age; early in life implanted in his mind the principles which in after life were adhered to, and secured to him the success and reputation he acquired. Sept. 1, 1842, he was wedded to Miss Eleanor Lyons, whose name she now bears, who was born Dec. 23, 1820, in Jefferson Co., Ohio; who was the second of a family of seven children, five of whom attained to mature age. Of the number now living, are Thomas M., of Allegany Co.; Eliza Ann, now Mrs. Elliot; Mary M., Mrs. McFadden, both of Jefferson Co., Ohio. All of these were the issue of her parents, Hugh and Sarah (Moore) Lyons. He was a native of Mercer Co., Penn., born in 1799, she of New York, in 1800; they were married in Virginia in 1818, and soon after emigrated to the Western wilds, to east their lots with the pioneers of the Buckeye State, selecting as their future and permanent home, Jefferson Co., where they lived until their death, his occurring

in 1876, that of his consort, four years afterward. They were among the prominent families in that county, and consistent members of the Presbyterian Church. In 1845, Mr. and Mrs. Shaw moved to La Fayette Township, and purchased 120 acres, 14 being cleared, upon which were a log cabin and rough barn. Remaining here eight years, they sold out and located in the western part of this township, purchasing 120 acres, which was finally increased to 228; here he spent the remainder of his days, passing to his rest Dec. 27, 1872, leaving a family of seven children, whose names are, Emiretta V., the wife of H. McCrag, of Ashland Co.; Elvira E., Mrs. Al Reynolds, of Ashtabula Co.; Milliard F., now of Indiana; Orrie E., Mrs. L. Jones; Benjamin F., on the farm; Mary and John E. Politically, Mr. Shaw was Republican in principle, active and positive in his sentiments, but not a partisan; was a member of the Masonic fraternity, and always endeavored to make its precepts the rule and guide of his life; Mrs. Shaw is a member of the M. E. Church; since 1877, has resided at Westfield Center, the farm being yet in her possession.

DANIEL SHOOK, farmer; P. O. Seville; among the solid and substantial farmers in this township, who have emigrated from the Keystone State, is Mr. Shook, who was born in Center Co., Penn., Dec. 31, 1821. His parents were John and Christina (Long) Shook, who were highly respected citizens in that community, and among the enterprising farmers of that locality. Daniel was of a family of ten children. Remaining with his father until he was 22, he having entertained favorable opinions of the West, and seeking to better his condition, concluded to drift Westward, arriving in Wayne County, this State, 1846. The year following, he purchased 100 acres in this township, for which he paid \$1,500. Not being content to fight the battle of life alone, he sought the hand of Caroline Coolman in marriage, its acceptance being celebrated June 6, 1847; she was born in Milton Township, Wayne Co., August, 1829; she was a daughter of John and Elizabeth (Reed) Coolman, who emigrated from Pennsylvania as early as 1812 to Stark County, where they remained until 1815, when they removed to Wayne County, where Mrs. Shook was born. Since Mr. Shook came to this county he has been one of its worthy citizens. Has an excel-





lent farm, consisting of 205 acres, which ranks among the best in the township. His farming has always been conducted on true business principles; been hard-working and economical, his farm bearing evidence of the enterprise and thrift of its owner. His health having failed him, he has given up active labor on the farm, and employs his spare time attending to his apiary, he being among the successful bee-culturists in the county. Has two children. John J. and Sarah Ann (now Mrs. Chauncy) Hollowell. John J. is now carrying on the farm; Mr. and Mrs. Hollowell residing on same farm. Mr. Shook is a member of the Lutheran Church, as were his parents before him. Takes but little interest in political matters—content to attend to his own business affairs, and rank among the useful members of society, than to aspire for political honors.

SAMUEL SMITH, farmer; P. O. Le Roy; born March 5, 1821, in Canaan Township, Wayne Co., Ohio, of a family of nine children, five sisters and four brothers, born to James and Keziah (McCollough) Smith. Both were natives of Washington Co., Penn. They were married June, 1812, and emigrated West to Wayne Co. in 1820. Samuel left home at the age of 15, and was engaged for some time as clerk in a store; afterward in buying stock and running a threshing machine. Then went into the mercantile business at Canaan Center, associated with Mr. Solomon Zuver, under the firm name of Zuver & Smith, which partnership continued several years. His next enterprise, was in the milling business, running a saw and grist mill for ten years. Then removed to Seville, Guilford Township, embarking in the mercantile business until 1873, when he located on the farm he now owns, situated one mile south of Westfield Center. His farm consists of 140 acres. March 1, 1855, formed a matrimonial alliance with Jane Armstrong, who was born July 12, 1836, in Canaan Township, Wayne Co., daughter of William and Mary (Rose) Armstrong. The former born in Pennsylvania, and came West in 1815, locating in Wayne Co., where he was married, six children resulting from this union. His wife died when Jane was 15 years of age, and was afterward married to Catharine McPherson. Two children were the issue. Mr. Smith was out in the late war, serving as Captain in Co. K, 16th O. V. I. Since 1875, has been serving on the official board of

the Ohio Farmers' Insurance Co. as Director. Five children have been born to him, but three living—Frances E., Rebecca Jeannette and William C.

JAMES H. TAYLOR, farmer and stock-raiser; P. O. Seville. Among the noted horsemen in this county is J. H. Taylor, who was born in Salem, Washington Co., N. Y., July 4, 1830. His parents were E. W. and Jane (Nelson) Taylor, all of same county and State. The Nelsons are of Irish, and the Taylors of Yankee descent. James was ten years of age when his parents came to Guilford Township, his father dying three years after his arrival. J. H. then lived with his mother until he attained his major years. Early in life he manifested great love for a horse, and, at the age of 10, he began riding races, which he kept up until 19, and, being an expert driver, he drove and fitted horses for the speed ring; for several years has driven some very important races, where a high rate of speed and a large amount were at stake; in 1861, was offered \$1,000 and expenses to go to California and drive Sherman, Jr., in a single race where \$15,000 was wagered; he went and won the race. Upon his return home came upon the steamship America, on her trial trip, having on board 900 passengers. Shortly after leaving Graytown, they were caught in a gale and came near being "swamped;" lost their rudder, and were for several weeks without the use of engine or rudder, being, as sailors would say, "water-logged." While on this trip, came on to the ill-fated Golden Gate, and took aboard her passengers and crew. He succeeded in reaching his destination, losing his baggage and effects. For several years past, he has been engaged in buying and selling horses; his superior judgment combined with his ripe experience have served to cause his opinion to stand as an oracle among the lovers of fine horses; his extensive acquaintance with horsemen and dealers has given him an enviable reputation in that direction. Persons at a distance often send orders for him to fill, for fancy matched teams, trotters or heavy draft, and are furnished and guaranteed to suit. He is now engaged in farming and raising horses for the market, which are of superior kind and quality, they having taken some flattering premiums at the State and agricultural fairs. May 1, 1854, was married to Julia Hosmer, born in Guil-



ford Township, May 1, 1833. daughter of Judge Hosmer, of Seville, one of the old pioneers of the county. Her mother's maiden name was Lucy Hays, who was one of the pioneer school teachers in the southern part of the county. After Mr. Taylor was married, he located in Seville until 1872, when he moved to his farm, consisting of 100 acres, located one-half mile west of Seville; has three children—Wallace E., Hubert E. and Maude B.

JACOB WIDEMAN, farmer and stock-raiser; P. O. Seville; was born Jan. 23, 1826, in Markham, near Toronto, Canada West, the seventh child born to his parents, who were Jacob and Hannah (Geisinger) Wideman, who were natives of Bucks Co., Penn., and emigrated to that province at or near the beginning of the present century. To them were born eleven children, who were Sarah, Barbara, Mary, Phillip, Daniel, Ludwick, Jacob, Catharine, Henry, John and George, all of whom attained maturity, and came to this State with their parents. Sarah was the wife of John Leatherman, who settled in Wadsworth; she died in 1879; Barbara, Mrs. Bartshee, in Guilford; Mary, now in Spencer; Phillip, in Indiana; Daniel, in Lorain Co.; Ludwick, in Seville; Catharine, Mrs. Ephraim Wright; Henry, in La Fayette; John died in 1879, never married; George in Michigan. Jacob was about 1 year old when he left Canada with his parents, who settled in Guilford Township and purchased 200 acres of land, which they cleared up, remaining on the same until their death, which occurred Oct. 28, 1855, and April 18, 1879, respectively. They were among the solid and highly respected citizens in that locality, and identified with its religious interests, both being members of the M. E. Church. Jacob grew up under the paternal roof; attaining his major years, remained upon the farm. At the age of 27, was married to Martha A. Webster, which event was celebrated in April, 1853. She was born in Clearcreek Township, Ashland Co., Ohio, May 12, 1833. She was the fourth of a family of ten children born to Francis E. and Rachel (Cowell) Webster. He was born in New Jersey, she in Greene Co., Penn. They came West about the year 1829. He was a shoemaker by trade, but carried on farming also. To them were born four children, who are Cordelia, Mrs. Smith; Harriet, Mrs. Wideman, in Wooster; Martin V., in Michigan, and Mrs. Jacob Wideman, the wife

of this subject. Parents died in Lorain Co., he in 1879, she seven years previous. Since Mr. Wideman was married, he has made several changes. After one year's residence on the home farm, then moved to North Chatham, purchasing a farm, lived nine years; then returned to Guilford, lived four years; sold out, moved to Seville, lived one year; then purchased a farm in Wayne Co., where he lived seven years, then traded farm and came to his present farm in 1876. Has now 227 acres of good land, and is among the best farmers in the township, as well as one of its first-rate citizens. Is raising the best of stock, consisting of Durham cattle, full-blooded Cotswold sheep, and the best of horses, of the Percheron, Jersey, Eclipse, Hiattoga and Hambletonian. Has three children—Justin, Altha O., Mrs. Foskett, in Wellington, and Elmer E.

JAMES WAGONER, farmer; P. O. Le Roy; born Feb. 15, 1815, in Markham Township, near Toronto, Canada West. His parents were James and Margaret (Long) Wagoner, who were natives of Pennsylvania, and migrated to Canada about the commencement of the present century. In 1825, when a lad of 10, our subject came to this county with his uncle, John Long, who located in Wadsworth Township, remaining with him until his majority. Nov. 11, 1834, he was united in wedlock to Mary Wideman, who was born Feb. 25, 1816, in same locality as her husband. Her parents were Jacob and Anna (Geisinger) Wideman, who were Pennsylvanians. Mr. Wagoner's school advantages were of limited character, what he did obtain was within the confines of the rude log-cabin which the neighbors hastily constructed—hiring the teacher by subscription fund. After taking upon him the marital relations, he set about seeking a livelihood for himself and spouse; he had neither money nor land, but had his hands and will-power, which were brought into requisition. He cut a cord of wood for 25 cents; cut and split rails at 40 cents per 100, taking store pay, \$7 per month was the rate received. One bushel of wheat was often given in exchange for a day's labor, which would not command in money one-fourth of a dollar. He did a great deal of "slashing" timber (cutting down), the price being \$1.50 per acre, and about \$3.50 for cutting and trimming. He afterward took leases of land. After a succession of years, he succeeded in saving enough to enable him to pur-





chase a small tract of land in Putnam Co., where he removed, but, finding it very sickly, he returned to this county after two years' residence; he since has been a constant resident of this township. Notwithstanding his unfavorable beginning, he has acquired of this world's goods sufficient to enable him to spend the remainder of his days in the enjoyment of his family and comparative independence. He has always adhered to the tenets embraced in the Old Whig party. At the outbreak of the rebellion, he sent two sons, who did him honor by their true and soldier-like deportment. Jacob went out in the first call, serving three months in Co. K, 8th Ohio; afterward enlisted in the 103d, Co. K; served as Orderly Sergeant, remaining until the close of the war. Ludwick E. served three years in the 42d Ohio. Both returned home sound in health and limb. To Mr. Wagoner have been born eight children; of those living are Jacob, now residing with his father—was married in 1875 to Ella White, born in 1849, in Westfield Township, daughter of Squire E. O. White, of Lodi, whose wife was Mary Mallory; he was a native of Vermont, she of this county; Jacob has two children—Gertrude M. and Early. Ludwick E., now of Detroit; Henry, in Lodi; and Francis A. Religiously, Mr. Wagoner is a Universalist in belief and profession. He has the esteem of the community in which he has been a resident for over one-half a century.

G. C. WRIGHT, window blind manufacturer, Le Roy; was born July 1, 1829, in Litchfield Co., Conn., and came West with his parents in May, 1839. There were seven children in the family, of which number he was the third in order of birth; their names were Joel, H. B., G. C., Clarissa, Sarah, Phoebe and Fannie, all of whom were born to Martin S. and Fannie (Hallock) Wright, both being natives of Litchfield Co., and were born June 21, 1803, and July 4, 1800, respectively. Upon their arrival they located on the farm now owned by M. T. Ward, south of the Center; there were 96 acres in the farm, but a small portion of which was cleared. He was a carpenter by occupation, which business he followed for several years, being one of the best workmen in the county, and one of its worthy citizens, whose influence was felt for good, both in church and in the community at large. Both he and wife died of erysipelas in 1849, in the

month of April—her death occurring on the 15th, his the 17th. George C. worked with his father at his trade during his minority. Nov. 12, 1852, was married to Maria Collier, who was born Nov. 28, 1830, in the township, her parents were George and "Heppie" (Steele) Collier, both born and reared in Hartford, Conn., there married, in 1817, and emigrated West shortly after; located on the farm now owned by Henry Yergin, one mile southwest of Westfield Center. Their family consisted of nine children, of those living are—Henry, now of Cincinnati; George, now Chaplain in the U. S. Army, in Dakota Territory; Emeline, now Mrs. H. B. Farnum, of this township; Maria, the wife of Mr. Wright; Mary, Mrs. C. W. Norton, of Cedar Co., Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Collier died in 1864 and 1879, respectively. Mr. Collier was one of the charter members of the Ohio Farmers' Insurance Company, as well as Director of the same, and was one of the staunch citizens of the community. In 1853, Mr. Wright engaged in the business which he is now conducting, where he manufactures window blinds. Having some ingenious devices of his own invention, in the way of machinery, which enables him to manufacture work which surpasses that imported of the kind, receiving therefor better prices, he and son, Almon J., are doing a good business, which is largely on the increase. Having a buhr attached to his machinery, is prepared to do grinding to order. Six children have been born to him, who are, Almon J., Emma, Clara, Edna, Henry and Clarence.

HIRAM WHITMORE, farmer; P. O. Burbank; born in Franklin Co., Penn., Nov. 30, 1827. Early in life, he learned the wagon and carpenter's trade, which vocation his father followed for a livelihood. At the age of 22, Hiram came West, living one year in Canaan Township, Wayne Co., with his brother, who had preceded him two years. Hiram returned to Pennsylvania and assisted in removing his parents to this country. After three years' residence with them, he returned to his native State, and was married, Nov. 23, 1853, to Sarah Harnish, born March 8, 1828, in Washington Co., Md., daughter of John Harnish, whose wife's maiden name was Fetterhoff. After his marriage, he returned to this county, locating at Morse's Corners, now Friendsville, where he purchased 40 acres at \$1,300, and engaged in farm-



ing. After nine years' residence at this place, he disposed of his interests there and purchased where he now resides, where he has 118 acres, situated in the southwest corner of the township. Mr. Whitmore began life poor, without any pecuniary aid. He has secured his present competence, and, with it, has merited the esteem with which he is held in the community. For thirty-five years, he has been a member of the United Brethren, and Class-leader for twenty-five. In political matters, he takes but little interest. Prohibition principles are more in harmony with his views than either of the others. To him have been born six children—John A., Jane, Valeria, Elmer, Laura and Arminta. The father died in 1867; the mother is now in her 91st year.

HENRY YERGIN, farmer; P. O. Le Roy; is of good old Pennsylvania stock, born in Huntingdon Co., Penn., Feb. 24, 1816. His paternal ancestor was Henry Yergin, born April 30, 1788, and was married Feb. 18, 1809, to the mother of our subject, whose maiden name was Catharine Coble, born June 21, 1791, in Washington Co., same State. This union was blessed with an offspring of twelve children, who were as follows: John, Susanna, Elizabeth, Henry, Mary, David, Christian, William, Andrew, Sophia, Catharine and Joseph—all of whom lived

to be men and women. The family emigrated West to Wayne Co., arriving in March, 1816, Henry being but 3 weeks old. The country being new and the family large, industry and economy were essential to the establishment of a home, as well as to obtain the common necessities of life, hence our subject was reared amidst privation and the attending hardships of pioneer life. His schooling was principally obtained with the use of the ax and the implements of husbandry. What little education he got of a literary character was within the confines of a log "academy," where he was initiated into the rudiments of reading, writing and arithmetic. His marriage was with Christina Kintner, born in May, 1817, who was a daughter of Jacob and Christina (Ibrig) Kintner, natives of Washington Co., Penn. To Mr. Yergin have been born five children, but three living, viz.: Rosana E., Caroline (now Mrs. Eli Stahl, of Wayne Co.), and Priscilla; Rebecca died in 1879; she was the wife of Jacob Farmer. Mr. Yergin remained in Wayne Co. until 1874; since then he has been a resident of this Township. He has a good farm of 103 acres, which he has accumulated by his own industry; beginning poor without a dollar, he has made a success, and is one of the neat and substantial farmers in the township.

## GRANGER TOWNSHIP.

JOHN AMERMAN, Granger. Albert and Ellen (Peterson) Amerman, parents of this gentleman, were natives of New Jersey. The former was born in 1784, and the latter in 1791. They were married in 1813, and are the descendants of old and respected Holland families who came to America in Colonial times. Mr. Amerman, in early life, learned the shoemaker's trade, but after his marriage he devoted his entire time to farming and stock-growing. In 1826, he removed from his native State to Long Island, where he remained some eight years, and then came to Sharon Township, Medina Co., Ohio, where he and wife passed the remainder of their days. They were the parents of three children—John, Peter, and one that died in infancy. Mr. Amerman departed this life in 1863, and his wife in 1843. John Amer-

man was born Sept. 6, 1819, in Somerset Co., N. J. He was raised upon a farm, and received the benefits of a common-school education. He was united in marriage with Miss Emeline Castner April 28, 1847. She was born in New Jersey Aug. 21, 1823. Five children were the fruits of this union, viz.: Albert S., born Jan. 7, 1849; Edward E., Nov. 27, 1859; Edith J., July 20, 1856; John M., Oct. 24, 1852, and died March 21, 1853; John C., born April 5, 1859, and died Nov. 4, 1861. Albert S. is single and resides in Dakota Territory; Edward E. married Miss Ada A. McMillan Dec. 31, 1873, and now resides in Nebraska; Edith J. married Mr. Henry Hawks Nov. 26, 1874. He was born June 4, 1853. They have one child—Ethel E., born May 16, 1879. Mrs. Amerman died March 27, 1870. Mr. Amerman has





been a resident of Granger Township since 1848. He owns 200 acres of well-improved land, and is one of the successful farmers and wool-growers of the county. He is a man of retiring disposition, broad and liberal in his views, but firm in his convictions of right and wrong. Politically, he is a Republican.

BENJAMIN BURT, P. O. Granger. Daniel and Hannah (Trafton) Burt, parents of this gentleman, were born, reared and married in Massachusetts. During the early settlement of Ontario Co., N. Y., they were among the first to go there. Here, in 1813, Mr. Burt died, leaving his wife and eight children to mourn his loss. Some five years later, when quite a number of persons from Ontario Co. came to settle in Medina Co., Ohio, John and Daniel Burt, sons of the above gentleman, came to the county and began the improvement of a piece of land in what is now Granger Township, which they had traded for the same year. In February, of 1819, the mother with the family, started for the new home in Ohio, arriving at their destination on the 5th of March the same year. The two sons had been out the year previous and built a log cabin, into which the family moved on their arrival. The house had no windows or doors, and to make matters worse, the day after they arrived there was a heavy snow-storm. The mother, however, supplied this deficiency by hanging quilts at the doors and windows, which in a measure kept out the cold until warm weather set in. Benjamin Burt was born in Ontario Co., N. Y., Feb. 14, 1804, and was but 15 years of age when the family came to Ohio. He started a day or so before the family, with the cows, and expected they would overtake him in a short time. This, however, they did not do, for he arrived the day before the family at their new home, having walked almost the entire distance. In 1820, John Burt built a double log cabin where the village of Grangerburg now stands, and the next year returned to New York, where he was married, returning to Ohio in the spring of 1822; his wife dying the same year that Benjamin went to live with him, the two brothers kept bachelor's hall for about eighteen months. Their house served the various purposes of a dwelling, a church, a tavern and a schoolhouse. John Burt taught school in the house in the winter of 1822, and quite frequently the scholars arrived at the schoolhouse

before the two brothers had their work done up. In this case the larger girls would assist in sweeping, washing dishes, etc. The year after their arrival in Ohio, Benjamin wanting a pair of shoes, and not having the money to purchase them, worked nine days at 25 cents per day for a man who obtained them for him by making a turn with a third party.

In 1826, Timothy Wilder and wife came in a lumber wagon from New York, to visit their friends in Ohio. On their return, Benjamin Burt and his mother accompanied them, and spent some time visiting friends in New York and Massachusetts. Mr. Burt remained in his native State some years, working by the month. He was united in marriage with Miss Parmelia Hatch, Dec. 31, 1829. She was born in Ontario Co., N. Y., in 1812. In the spring of 1830, he returned to Ohio, bringing his wife with him, Eben Bissell and wife being also in the company. On their arrival at Cleveland, it was necessary that one of the men should go to Granger and procure teams to bring the women and goods to that place. The distance was about thirty miles, and Mr. Burt walked the distance in a half-day, and this when the country was almost an uninhabited wilderness, filled with logs, groups of underbrush, ravines, etc. The furniture of their new home was of regular pioneer order. They used a chest for a table until a more fashionable article could be procured. When they had company, two chests were placed together, one being much lower than the other. In this way began Benjamin Burt and wife, who have been well and favorably known to the people of Medina Co., for over half a century. They are the parents of three children, viz.: Ozro Seymour, born Jan. 31, 1831; Charles Milton, born Oct. 9, 1833, and Lucretia E., born Oct. 3, 1837. These children are all married and the heads of families. Ozro S. was married Nov. 11, 1854, to Miss Mercy A. Shaw. She was born in Summit Co., Ohio, Oct. 7, 1834. They have a family of eight children—Elroy C., Bion U., Diana, Minnie, Benjamin, Elbridge, Grace E. and Mary G. After marriage and until 1867, this gentleman was engaged in farming, dairying and dealing in live stock. At this time, he purchased a half-interest in a store in Grangerburg, of his brother-in-law, although he remained on his farm. In 1870, he purchased the entire stock of goods and has since conducted the business



alone. He carries a large stock, and is doing a large and steadily increasing business. In 1868, he and James McMillen erected a large cheese manufactory at Grangerburg, having a manufacturing capacity of 1,300 pounds daily. It is now, and ever has been since built, in active operation, during the cheese-making season. Besides the above property, he owns a nicely improved farm of 250 acres adjoining the village. He is an intelligent, progressive gentleman, and has held all the township offices in the gift of the people. He has been for some years a member of Medina Lodge, No. 76, F. & A. M.

Charles M. Burt, like his brother, was raised upon a farm. He attended the common schools of the neighborhood until he was about 17 years of age, when he attended school at Oberlin, Ohio, for some time, and then came home and worked for his father until about 24 years of age, at which time he and his brother Ozro S. purchased the old homestead of 170 acres, which they farmed in common for two years, when he purchased his brother's interest. He continued to deal in real estate and make additions to the home farm until he owned 400 acres in one body. In 1871, he went to Wadsworth and purchased the Exchange Hotel, which he owned and run for about eighteen months and then traded it for one-fifth interest in the Eureka Lead Works of that place. After about two years, he disposed of this and he and Mr. H. Z. Chandler purchased 2,760 acres of pine lands in Michigan, paying \$30,500 for the same. This he now owns, together with 234 acres of land in Granger Township, and a valuable and nicely improved home property in Wadsworth, which he now makes his home. He was united in marriage with Miss E. A. Hills, March 28, 1859. She was born in Granger Township in 1841. They have two children—Elno O. and Abbie J. Lucretia E. Burt married Mr. James Hopkins, and is now residing in Akron, Ohio. Thus it will be seen that the three children of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Burt are well-to-do people, and have profited by the examples of sobriety, economy and industry set them by their most worthy parents. Benjamin Burt has devoted nearly all his life to agricultural pursuits, never seeking the publicity of office, although he has filled many township offices with much credit to himself and lasting benefit to those for whom he labored. He held the

office of County Commissioner six years, and was a member of that body during the period when the new court house was built, and was the only member who voted against the remodeling of the old house. He has always acted independent of sects and denominations, favoring everything known to be right, and promptly opposing everything known to be wrong. He and sons are stalwart Republicans, and have been since the organization of that party. He is now in his 78th year, and, with his silver locks and tardy steps, is quietly awaiting "the last of earth." His wife is nearly 70 years of age.

M. C. CODDING, Granger. The name of Coddington was originally Coddington, and their progenitor was from England. Some years after the Plymouth Colony had established itself on this continent, there came to the colony one Sir William Coddington, from England. He was descended from the nobility of his native country, but, through misfortune, had lost his property, and, to recuperate, had come to America. He was a man of much more than ordinary ability, and of very decided views regarding religion and men. He held that infant baptism was not necessary to salvation, and that every man had a right to worship God as he saw fit. He was pronounced by the Council a heretic, and an order issued that he should be sent back to England. Before this could be executed, however, he had left the colony, gone to Rhode Island and joined the Williams Colony. Here he remained the rest of his life, becoming, at last, Governor of Rhode Island, and one of the wealthiest men in the colony. All the Coddings now in the New World, so far as known, are descendants of this gentleman, and the coat of arms used by himself and family is still to be seen in the old State House at Newport. George Coddling, the father of our subject, was born in Bristol, Ontario Co., N. Y., March 31, 1800. He was reared upon a farm, receiving but a limited education. In 1821, he left his native State and came to Granger Township, this county. He had traded for Lot 28 before leaving home, and, upon his arrival in the township, he at once began preparing his land for tillage. His marriage with Miss Jerusha Spencer occurred Nov. 22, 1822. She was born in Seneca, Ontario Co., N. Y., Aug. 18, 1802. From this union there were seven children, viz., Myron C., Spencer F., Nancy T., Albert T., Harriet M., William E. and Lucy A. Mrs.





Codding died May 1, 1841. On the 18th of May, 1842, Mr. Codding was united in marriage to Eliza Johnson, who was the mother of one child—Helen L. This lady died June 20, 1861. Mr. Codding departed this life April 15, 1845. Although never aspiring to political prominence, he was honored, during his lifetime, with a number of positions in Granger Township, and was, for a number of years, Captain of a company of militia. He was of a retiring disposition, devoting his entire lifetime to agricultural pursuits, the temporal and spiritual welfare of his family, and the promotion of the best interests of the community in which he lived. Myron C. Codding was born upon the farm he now owns and resides upon, March 1, 1824. Although his educational advantages are somewhat limited, yet he has become a fair scholar in the English branches, and has held, during the last decade, many positions of honor and trust in Granger Township. He was united in marriage with Miss Phoebe H. Ganyard Sept. 13, 1848. This lady was born in Granger Township Feb. 8, 1828, and is the daughter of Festus Ganyard, Esq., one of the first settlers of the township. From this union, four children were born, viz., Albert T., George, Harriet E. and Lena R. Mr. Codding has, for a number of years, been engaged in farming, stock-raising and dairying, in all of which he has been very successful. Although he never learned any trade, he readily turned his hand to anything required to be done, especially excelling as a wood-workman. He has been a remarkably industrious and hard-working man, very frugal in his habits, and has accumulated quite a competency by his regard for these manly virtues. He is a substantial and useful member of the community, and has been quite liberal in contributions for charitable and educational enterprises. He owns a nicely improved farm of 132 acres; is a staunch Republican in politics, and a consistent member of the M. E. Church. Medina Co. would be much better off had it more such men as M. C. Codding.

JASPER A. CODDING, farmer; Remson's Corners; is a native of Granger Township, where he was born in 1819; he is the oldest person born in the township now living; his parents were John and Hannah Spencer Codding; his father was a native of Ontario Co., N. Y., born May 2, 1797; his mother was a native of

Connecticut, they were united in marriage in Bristol, Ontario Co., N. Y., and came to Granger Township in March 1818; his mother died in the township; his father subsequently sold his farm and removed to Medina, where he departed this life Oct. 20, 1866, after a stirring, eventful life, regretted by all who knew him; he served in active public life for a great many years, representing all of the township offices, and serving as Justice of the Peace for many terms; he was well posted in law and business, and was largely employed by his townsmen, to transact their business and legal matters; he represented his district in the State Legislature, and subsequently was chosen State Senator, offices which he fulfilled with ability and honor; he was chosen as one of the Commissioners for the appraisement of the Western Reserve school lands, and at one time was a Presidential Elector. In his early manhood, John saved the life of a neighbor named Moore, who was bitten by a rattlesnake, by applying his mouth to the wound and drawing the poison out; it was an office of great danger, and illustrates the nobility and courage of his nature; his children now living are as follows: Jasper A., Wilder M., a resident of Wadsworth Township; Elsie A. McFarland, living in Summit Co.; Charles G., a resident of Medina. Our subject passed his early life upon his father's farm, teaching school several winter sessions, until 25 years of age, when he was united in marriage to Miss Phoebe J. Huntley April 17, 1844; she was born in New York State in March, 1827; her father was John Huntley, an old resident of Medina Co. Mr. and Mrs. C. have been blessed with the following children: John S., living in Portage Co.; Frank D., a resident of Knox Co., Ill.; Emma L. Perrin, living in Granger Township. After his marriage Mr. Codding engaged in farming for a year and a half in Summit Co., and then removed to Granger, where he has since resided; he located in 1850 one-half mile east of Remson's Corners, where he now lives; he has 63 acres of fine improved land; he is a useful and respected citizen of the township, having served the township for six terms as assessor, and always taken an active interest in schools and township matters.

SAMUEL CUTTER, farmer; P. O. Remson's Corners; is a prominent citizen of Granger Township, he is a native of Columbia Co.,



Penn., where he was born in 1801; his parents were Samuel and Mary (Cole) Cutter, natives of New Jersey, they were pioneers of Holmes Co., where they located in 1819, and residents of that county the remainder of their days. Samuel when a youth went to Wooster and learned the blacksmith's trade, which occupation he followed there for a number of years. While a resident of Wayne Co., he was elected to the office of Sheriff of the county, and served for two terms; at the expiration of his last term of office he farmed in Wayne Co. for three years, and then removed to Homer Township, Medina Co., where he resided for nine years upon a farm. In 1861, he removed to his present location in Granger Township; he has a farm of 125 acres, located in the northeastern portion of the township, well improved. He was united in marriage in 1831, to Miss Deborah Sprague, she bore him two sons, Henry and Charles—both now deceased. Henry was in the service nearly three years and Charles 100 days; his wife died in Wooster. Mr. Cutter was married to a second wife, Miss Mary Mason, Jan. 9, 1840; she is a native of New Hampshire, and was born in 1804, they have two children living. Harvey, he is married to Miss Ann Baker, a native of Michigan, they have four children—Frank, Charles, Israel and Mary; Harvey resides with his parents; Ellen Young, another daughter living in Kansas; Mr. and Mrs. Cutter are both members of the Baptist Church. Mr. Cutter, while out hunting in Chatham woods, in the night of Nov. 13, 1833, was a spectator of the great meteoric showers which occurred at that date; he relates that the sight was one of grand and indescribable splendor, and lasted from 12 o'clock until daybreak.

EBENEZER COMSTOCK; P. O. Granger; was born Oct. 20, 1820, in Montville, New London Co., Conn. He is the son of Ebenezer and Hannah (Stimpson) Comstock, both natives of Connecticut. By this union there were the following family of children: Mark, Jeremiah, Ebenezer, Mary S. and Elizabeth A. Mr. Comstock's first wife was a Miss Turner, who was the mother of ten children, viz.: Elisha, Henrietta, Nancy, Fieha, Desiah, Lucretia, Catharine, Artlissa and two not named. The father served his country in the navy during the war of the Revolution; he was taken prisoner by the British, but escaped and joined Gen. Greene's army. He died in Connecticut in 1835, and his

wife in Medina Co., Ohio, in 1864. For thirteen years after the death of his father, the subject of this sketch followed the life of a sailor; he served in all capacities, from a common sailor to commander and owner of a vessel. In 1848, he came to this county, which he has since made his home. He was united in marriage to Miss Sarah Kriebel May 2, 1856; she was born in Pennsylvania March 9, 1838. They have had four children, three of whom are yet living, viz.: Eunice, William and Frank; the one deceased was named Job. Mr. Comstock began life as a poor sailor boy, and has made what he now possesses by his own exertions. He owns a well-improved farm of 153 acres, near the center of Granger Township. He has in his possession a number of old deeds that were made to his grandfather for Connecticut land during the reigns of George the Second and Third, of England. In politics, he is a stalwart Republican. He is a well-informed man, of broad and liberal views, generous to a fault, but firm in his convictions of right and wrong. The county would be much better off had it more such men as Mr. Comstock.

DANIEL FLUENT, farmer; P. O. Weymouth; was born in Steuben Co., N. Y., in 1814. His parents were Jonathan and Mehitabel (Dudley) Fluent, natives of Maine, where they were married, subsequently removing to New York State and then to Ohio, locating in Steuben Co. Our subject passed his early life in that county; at the age of 20, he came to Hinckley Township, where he took up 50 acres of land, remaining there about eight years; he then moved to Granger Township, where he has since resided. His farm consists, at present, of 88 acres, located in the northwest corner of the township, and is fine farming land and well improved in every respect. He was united in marriage in 1837, to Miss Alice Conant, a daughter of Timothy Conant, of Hinckley Township; she was born in Richfield Township, Summit Co., July 6, 1821. They have six children, as follows: Louisa Hall, living in Wayne Co.; Jennie Williams, a resident of Cleveland; Margaret Snedley, living in Weymouth; J. K. Polk, Viola and Edgar B. Mr. Fluent has devoted his entire life to agricultural pursuits, and is spoken of as a first-class farmer and a prominent and respected citizen.

GEORGE M. GANYARD, Granger. About the year 1750, two brothers, James and Peter





Ganyard by name, embarked from France, their native country, in a merchantman owned by them, for the West Indies, intending to establish themselves in the mercantile business on the Island of Hayti. They must have been quite wealthy, for they owned several vessels, and, after establishing themselves in business, opened trade with the colonies of North America and their mother country. Both had received good educations in their native country, but they soon found that to do a successful business with the people of the New World, would necessitate their becoming more proficient in their English education. To this end, Peter, who was at this time a minor, was sent by his older brother to America to attend school, while he remained in Hayti to look after the business. The younger brother was supplied with plenty of money and admonished to improve his time and talents acquiring an English education, and learning the customs and habits of the Colonists. Quite the contrary did he do, however, for, after a time, he ran away from school and went to what is now the State of Connecticut, where, at Killingworth, he apprenticed himself to a shoemaker. While here he became acquainted with Miss Esther Merritt, to whom he was married in 1760. The elder brother not hearing from Peter, made diligent search and inquiry, but could learn nothing of him. He had, in the meantime, become Governor of Hayti, and was very wealthy. After about fourteen years, the Captain of one of his vessels hearing that there was a shoemaker by the name of Ganyard, in Killingworth, Conn., determined to visit the place and see if it was not the long-lost brother. Arriving at Killingworth, he visited the shop of the shoemaker and began questioning him in regard to his ancestors. The younger brother stoutly denied his identity, and it was only after the earnest entreaties of his wife and the Captain, that he confessed and expressed his willingness to go to Hayti and see his brother. The younger brother's family, at this time, consisted of himself, wife and five children. He was placed in charge of a large sugar and cotton plantation belonging to his brother, where he remained some years. At last he became tired of his occupation, and the year 1772 found himself and family at their old home in Killingworth, and he working at his trade. It may be as well to state here that James, the

elder brother, died of yellow fever, and that his wife returned to France. They had no children, and it is said that all the Ganyards in America are descendants of Peter Ganyard, the shoemaker. The older brother's property was nearly all destroyed during the rebellion on the Island, in 1772 and 1773. The younger brother went there after order was restored, and managed to obtain about \$3,000, which, on his return, was invested in a farm of 300 acres in Litchfield Co., Conn. Here he passed the remainder of his days, as did his wife. They were the parents of ten children, one of whom, James, being the grandfather of our subject. He was born Jan. 14, 1772, and married Miss Phoebe Hatch, who was born at Saybrook, Conn., April 26, 1767. They were married in Hartland, Conn., Nov. 30, 1792, and began housekeeping in a portion of Peter Ganyard's house in Litchfield Co., Conn. They were the parents of quite a large family, of whom appropriate mention will be made in another part of this work. In 1798, James Ganyard went to what was then known as the "Phelps and Gorham Purchase," in the Genesee country, New York. Liking the country, he returned to Connecticut, and, in January of the following year, removed to that country, which, at the time, was considered the very verge of civilization. He purchased 90 acres of land of Simeon Hatch, in North Bristol, Ontario Co., and began its improvement. He was a hard-working man, and, in a few years, had a comfortable home for himself and family. In October of 1817, Mr. Ganyard, in company with Elizar Hills, Anthony Low and Bart Codding, came to Ohio to view Town 3, Range 3, of the Western Reserve. After viewing the land, and being satisfied with soil, climate, location, etc., they returned to New York and contracted with Gideon Granger, the proprietor of the land, for three-fourths of the township, at \$4 per acre, giving their lands in Bristol, N. Y., in part pay, and securing the balance by giving mortgage on their lands in Ohio. This mortgage, in after years, was a great drawback to the settlers of the township, and caused many of them considerable expense and anxiety. After the agreement was made, and before the article was signed by the purchasers, Mr. Ganyard transferred his right to Mr. John Codding, reserving only to himself such lands as he had paid for. This is the reason why his name never appeared on any of the origi-



nal records of the company. He came to Granger Township in 1819, and located on Lot 35, where he ever afterward resided. He died Dec. 20, 1844, and his wife March 2, 1840. They are buried on the old home farm, and a humble stone, bearing their names, is the only memorial which marks the spot where rest two of the first pioneers of Granger Township. Their son, Festus Ganyard, was born March 27, 1795, in Litchfield Co., Conn. When his parents removed to New York, he was but a child; his early education was quite limited, but in later years he acquired quite a knowledge of the sciences; he became quite proficient in botany and history, and was often called on to prescribe for the sick of the neighborhood. He attended his first term of school in East Hollow, Ontario Co., N. Y.; in this school he was taught his A B C's by Miss Jane Giddings; she was a sister of the Hon. Joshua R. Giddings, so well known to the people of the United States. In after years, Mr. Ganyard often spoke of this school and of Miss Giddings as being a model teacher. Festus Ganyard came to Granger Township one year prior to his parents, and began improving the land owned by his father. He was united in marriage with Miss Betsey Burt, March 27, 1822; she was born March 13, 1802. They were the parents of three children, viz., Harriet, Phoebe and George M. Mr. Ganyard, during his life, held many positions of honor and trust; he assisted in the organization of civil government in Granger Township; it was he who, with others, formed the Congregational Church of Granger, the first Christian organization in the township, and he and his wife continued worthy and exemplary members of this church until their deaths. Mr. Ganyard was a man of much more than ordinary ability and natural powers of mind. He was of a retiring disposition, and did not meddle much in political affairs, yet he held decided opinions, which he did not fail to express at the ballot-box. He did his part as a faithful father, husband and Christian. He died March 22, 1868, and his faithful wife and companion Nov. 10, 1866. He and wife were buried in the cemetery on the old homestead, upon land cleared by his own hand when he was a young man.

George M. Ganyard, the subject of this sketch, was born upon the farm he now owns, Nov. 7, 1834. His youth and early manhood were

passed assisting his father upon the farm. He was united in marriage to Miss Mary B. Haight, Feb. 22, 1864. She was born in Sharon Township, this county, Sept. 12, 1844. They have two children, viz., Eudisia M. and Alida H. Mr. Ganyard owns a nicely improved farm of 220 acres, near the center of the township. He has devoted his energies to dairying and agricultural pursuits, and has been very successful in his business enterprises. He has never sought the publicity of office, although he has filled several township positions, at the solicitation of friends. He is a staunch Republican, and a man of broad and liberal views regarding men and religion. On taking a retrospective view of the Ganyard family, it can well and truly be said that they have most emphatically been a pioneer family. Coming, as they did, from the middle classes, their progenitors brought with them those qualities and virtues which render them not unworthy of a place among a people who were to subdue a wilderness, maintain their liberties, found a new State—in fact, create a new world.

M. W. GANYARD, Granger; is the son of John N. and Lucinda (Turner) Ganyard, the former a native of Bristol, Ontario Co., N. Y., and the latter of Canfield, Mahoning Co., Ohio. Mr. Ganyard had previously married Miss Elizabeth Turner, by whom there was one child—Turner N. There was one child by his second marriage—Marshal W. In 1819, Mr. Ganyard came to Granger Township, this county, settling on the farm now owned by the subject of this sketch. He was a hard-working man, and devoted the greater portion of his life to agricultural pursuits, although he worked at coopering to some extent in an early day. He was a good and useful man, and contributed liberally to all religious and educational enterprises. He had great musical ability, and could perform on almost any kind of an instrument. He died Jan. 3, 1861, and his wife Nov. 10, 1876. M. W. Ganyard was born June 14, 1835, and passed his youth and early manhood upon his father's farm, receiving a common-school education. When about 18 years of age, he took a trip through Canada and the East. From this time on until he was about 25 years old, he traveled during the fall and winter months, his summers being passed in assisting his father upon the farm. He was united in marriage with Miss Roseltha E. Waters, Dec. 24,





1868. She was born in Monroe Co., Mich., Dec. 13, 1845. From this union one child was born, Flora F. Mrs. Ganyard died June 26, 1875. Mr. Ganyard was married to Miss Kittie G. Bailey March 1, 1877. She was born in Canada East, Oct. 29, 1855. They have one child, John N. Mr. Ganyard has, for a number of years, made a specialty of raising fine sheep, and has done much to better this class of stock in the county. He is a Republican in politics, and liberal in his views regarding men and things. He owns 148 acres of as well improved land as can be found in Granger Township. Although he never learned any trade, he readily turned his hand to anything required to be done. He is a substantial and useful member of society, and one of the foremost agriculturists and wool-growers in Medina County.

R. O. GANYARD, farmer; P. O. Remsen's Corners; was born in Granger Township in September, 1841. His parents were James and Sarah (Low) Ganyard, natives of New York and pioneers of Granger Township, locating in 1818, where they were residents for the remainder of their lives. James died in March, 1875, and his wife in September, 1869. A more complete record of their residence in the township appears in another portion of this work. Our subject remained upon his father's farm until 29 years of age. In September, 1867, he removed to his present location, where he has 82 acres of rich land, the most of which is improved. He was married, in September, 1862, to Miss Caroline Crocker. She was born in Montville Township in November, 1841, and is a daughter of Jeremiah Crocker, an old and respected resident of the county, now living in Granger Township. Mr. and Mrs. Ganyard have three children—Mary, William and Linn. Mr. Ganyard is a young and enterprising farmer, and is a trusted and esteemed citizen. He has taken an active interest in the educational affairs of his district, and has served as Director and Clerk.

SEYMOUR A. GANYARD, Granger. This gentleman was born in Bristol, Ontario Co., N. Y., April 24, 1830. He is the son of Seymour G. and Esther (Donaldson) Ganyard, both of whom were natives of the Empire State, where they were married and resided until 1834, when they removed to Bath Township, Summit Co., Ohio. They were the parents of two sons—

Seymour G. and William N. Mr. Ganyard has always been engaged in agricultural pursuits, and owns one of the best farms in Bath Township, upon which he now resides. He is a man of decided religious and political views, and a useful and influential member of society. His wife departed this life Nov. 21, 1869. Seymour A. passed his youth and early manhood assisting his father upon the farm. He was educated in the common schools of that day. Aug. 25, 1859, he was united in marriage to Miss Almida Griffin. This lady was born in Copley Township, Summit Co., Ohio, Feb. 1, 1833. From this union there were two children, viz., Louisa and Sherman. Mrs. Ganyard died Jan. 2, 1873. Mr. Ganyard was united in marriage to Miss Alzina Wolcott Dec. 30, 1873. She was born in Granger Township, this county, Oct. 18, 1838. There is one child by this marriage—Eldo I. Mr. Ganyard, when 21 years of age, was given a colt by his father. This he sold for \$70, and put the amount at interest, and for the next eight years worked by the month and year upon a farm. He was careful of his earnings, and at the expiration of that time, had accumulated quite a little sum, which he invested in land. He now owns 112 acres of land, which is well improved. He is a Republican in politics, and a consistent member of the Disciples' Church.

HOEL HATCH, farmer; P. O. Remson's Corners; whose portrait, with that of his wife, appears in this book, is, with Benjamin Burt and John McCloud, one of the oldest settlers in the township. He was born in Bristol, Ontario Co., N. Y., March 10, 1803. His father, Nathan Hatch, was born in Connecticut Feb. 19, 1769. His mother's maiden name was Lucy Wilder; she also was a native of Connecticut, and was born Sept. 14, 1776. They were married in Bristol, Ontario Co., N. Y., Nov. 9, 1796. They emigrated to Ohio, and located in Granger Township in October, 1818, locating on the western town line, where they took up 700 acres of land. Nathan died Jan. 10, 1850; his wife Feb. 17, 1858. Hoel, at 20 years of age, started out in life for himself. His father divided up his land among the children, and he received as his share 137 acres, located on the center township road. He was united in marriage, Dec. 26, 1827, in Granger Township, to Miss Saloma Freeman. She was born in Canandaigua, N. Y., Oct. 8, 1805. Her parents, Jere-



miah (born Aug. 23, 1782) and Hannah (Gillett) Treeman (born Feb. 20, 1787), were natives of Connecticut and pioneers of Granger Township, locating there in 1818, and residents of the township the remainder of their lives. After his marriage, Hoel resided upon his farm for twenty years. In 1856, he removed to the farm where he now resides. He has 80 acres of finely improved land, some of which is the richest soil in the township. Their children are as follows: Nathan F., born July 9, 1830; he served all through the rebellion, and for several months after its close among the Indians. He now resides in Kansas. Emily E., born July 13, 1832, married Oct. 7, 1852, to Uriah F. Skinner. They removed to Iowa in 1853, where he died July, 1873, and she followed him October, 1873. They left five children in good circumstances—Hannah A., born Aug. 10, 1834, living at home; Milton L., born June 15, 1837, now a resident of Litchfield Township; Nancy S., born April 18, 1839, married to Thomas Sylvester, living in Granger; Lydia L., born April 23, 1842; Jeremiah J., born April 5, 1844, a resident of Granger Township; Julius C., born Feb. 20, 1846, now a resident of Sharon Township. Mr. Hatch has been prominently identified with the growth and development of the township, and contributes a great many incidents and dates to the township history. He was one of the first Abolitionists of the township. A very pleasant incident in the lives of Mr. and Mrs. Hatch was the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of their married life, upon which occasion Mr. H. was presented with a valuable and beautiful gold-headed cane, and his wife several pieces of silverware, by their children. Their years sit lightly upon them, although they are passing into the "sere and yellow leaf." They are located in a pleasant and comfortable home in a community where they are respected and beloved, and where the record of their well-spent lives can never be effaced.

JOHN S. HATCH, Sr., deceased; was born in Ontario Co., N. Y., June 7, 1810. His father, John Hatch, was a native of Connecticut, and one of the pioneers of Ontario Co. John S. passed his youth and early manhood in his native State, receiving the benefits of a common-school education. He was united in marriage, Feb. 19, 1832, to Miss Laura E. Parsons, a native of the Empire State, where she was born Sept. 3, 1806. The year following their mar-

riage, they came to Medina Co., Ohio, purchasing the land now owned by Mrs. Hatch, in Granger Township. They went to work with a will, and ere long were very comfortably situated. They had a family of six children, viz.: John S. (whose biography appears in this work), Laura A. (wife of Ira Bennett, of Montville Township), Martha P. (wife of Arthur Crane, of Sharon Township), Altha L. (wife of Edward Woodard, of Sharon Township) and Lydia N. and Timothy W. (single, and living with the mother). Mr. Hatch died Oct. 31, 1873, of paralysis. He was an intelligent, industrious man, and one whom every one respected and loved. His wife survives him, and resides upon the old homestead in Granger Township. Timothy W., son of the above gentleman, has always remained at home. He is a young man of ability and energy, and owns a nicely improved farm adjoining the home place. He is a member of the Republican party, a friend to education and all enterprises that tend to build up the community in which he lives or benefit his fellow-men.

JOHN S. HATCH, JR., P.O. Granger. This gentleman was born in Ontario Co., N. Y., Jan. 14, 1833. He is the son of John S. and Laura E. (Parsons) Hatch, both natives of the "Empire" State, where they were married and resided until 1834, when they came to this county, locating in Granger Township, where they ever afterward resided. They were the parents of six children—John S., Laura N., Martha P., Lydia N., Timothy W. and Altha. Our subject was raised upon a farm, receiving the benefits of a common-school education. Mr. Hatch is of a mechanical mind; even when a boy he would seize every opportunity for using whatever tools he could obtain, notwithstanding he was greatly discouraged in their use by his father, who took no interest in that line of industry. He began, however, at 16 years of age, to work at carpentering in a small way, and has for over thirty years, with the exception of some slight interruptions, worked at his trade. He was economical and industrious, and as fast as he earned money would invest it in real estate. He now owns 290 acres of well-improved land, which he has obtained by his own exertions. His marriage with Miss Mary F. Tallman occurred Dec. 6, 1860. She was born in St. Lawrence Co., N. Y., June 26, 1840. By this marriage there were six children—George





C., Florence M., Sarah E., Robert W., Nellie and John S. Mrs. Hatch died Aug. 11, 1879. She had been a faithful wife and affectionate mother, and it is greatly owing to her assistance and advice that Mr. Hatch owes his success in life. Mr. Hatch was united in marriage with Miss Hannah A. Pratt, Dec. 2, 1880. This lady was born in Livingston Co., N. Y., May 17, 1845. Mr. Hatch has devoted his life to his trade and in agricultural pursuits, and is, in the fullest sense of the term, a self-made man. He is of a retiring disposition, and does not meddle much in political affairs, yet he is decided in his opinions, which he never fails to express at the ballot box.

CARTER HUNTLEY, P. O. Granger. Mr. Huntley is one of the leading agriculturists and live-stock dealers of Medina Co. He was born June 17, 1830, in Ontario Co., N. Y., and is one of a family of nine children born to William A. and Eunice (Newton) Huntley, the former a native of Connecticut, and the latter of the Empire State. They were married in Ontario Co., N. Y., and resided there until 1831, when they came to this county and purchased a farm of 47 acres in Granger Township. Mr. Huntley died Dec. 24, 1875, followed by his wife Nov. 27, 1880. Carter remained at home until he had reached his majority. The fall following he entered the employ of William Davis, who ran a distillery in Copley Township, Summit Co. He was to receive \$8 per month, but, after working two weeks, he so pleased Mr. Davis that his wages were raised to \$12 per month. At the expiration of three months, he had, by working extra time, earned \$40. Not needing the money, he took Mr. Davis' note. He says the happiest period of his life was when he carried the note home and showed it to his father. The next summer he farmed his father's place on shares, and in the fall again went to work for Mr. Davis. Some time after this, he entered the employ of Dr. I. C. Isbell, of Summit Co. Dr. Isbell was a wealthy man, and owned a large tract of land in Western Wisconsin. In 1854, he sent Mr. Huntley with a number of men to Wisconsin to chop cordwood to supply the Upper Mississippi steamboats. In 1856, while shearing sheep for his uncle, E. E. Huntley, he was bantered by his uncle to purchase fifty head of sheep of him. After some thought, young Huntley purchased them, and, on his return home, was severely

reprimanded by his father for this his first venture in the live-stock trade. The father's fears, however, did not affect the son, for the next day he purchased twenty more sheep, and the day following, sold the entire lot at a profit of 12½ cents per head. This was his first experience in the sheep trade. He has, from that time until the present, dealt largely in sheep, with the same success that attended his early effort. He was united in marriage with Miss Mary E. Cook, Nov. 5, 1861. She was born Jan. 9, 1838, in Medina Co., Ohio. They have a family of three children, viz.: Elnora O., born Oct. 31, 1862; Viola E., Jan. 9, 1865, and Royal N., Oct. 21, 1867. On the 10th of January, 1880, their only son, Royal N., was accidentally killed by a large chestnut tree falling on him. This was a severe blow to Mr. and Mrs. Huntley. He was an unusually bright and intelligent boy, and gave promise of a life of future usefulness and greatness. Mr. Huntley owns 337 acres of well-improved land, which he has obtained by his own endeavors. He is a Democrat, but liberal in his views. He is, in the fullest sense of the word, a self-made man, and one of the county's best citizens.

GEORGE H. HODDINOTT, P. O. Granger; born in Granger Township, this county, Aug. 2, 1860; he is the son of Richard and Ann (Hodges) Hoddinott, both of whom were natives of Somersetshire, England. They were married in their native country in the spring of 1836, and a few weeks afterward took passage for the United States, where they hoped to make a home for themselves. They had but little or no means, and on their arrival in this country came almost immediately to Granger Township, where they ever afterward resided. They had one child, the subject of this sketch. Mr. Hoddinott was an intelligent and industrious man, and by his own exertions purchased and paid for 100 acres of land, upon which he resided at the time of his death, Jan. 6, 1874. His wife died Aug. 21, 1879. During their lives, by their exemplary conduct and kindness of manner, they greatly endeared themselves to the people of Granger Township. Mrs. Hoddinott's sister came to this country with herself and husband. She married Mr. Wm. Valleau, and is now a resident of Grangerburg. Jacob Hodges had come to this country some years previous, and located in this county; he died some years ago, leaving



a family of two children. Our subject was raised upon a farm, receiving a good common-school education. After the death of his parents he went to live with his guardian, Mr. Benjamin Burt. He now has charge of the village school, and is spoken of as a superior instructor; although yet young, we have no hesitancy in predicting for him a brilliant and successful future.

JOHN McCLOUD, farmer; P. O. Remson's Corners; is one of the three oldest settlers now living in Granger Township. His early residence and identification with the pioneer history of the township, and the prominent part taken by him in all public questions, make his personal history one of interest to all. He is a native of the State of New Hampshire, and was born Dec. 25, 1799. His parents were Samuel and Hannah (Holt) McCloud, also natives of New Hampshire, subsequently removing to Ontario Co., N. Y., where our subject's early life was passed. At the age of 9 years he was bound out to a farmer; here his life was one of extreme hard work and cruelty until, at the age of 14, the neighbors interfered and he was released. At the age of 19, he started for Ohio as the driver of an ox team for a party who were emigrating, and after a trip of twenty-two days they arrived and located in Granger Township, in October, 1818, where he has been a resident up the present time. The many pioneer tales and incidents of his early life and residence in the township, we will pass by, as many of the dates and facts furnished by him will appear in the township history. His first purchase of land was 50 acres in the eastern portion of the township; here he resided for a number of years, adding to his land until at times he owned 200 acres. In 1868, he removed to his present location, near Remson's Corners; he has 50 acres, where he resides. Mr. McCloud was married March 13, 1823, to Miss Anna Wolcott; her parents were Joseph and Lucy (Hills) Wolcott, natives of Connecticut and pioneers of Granger, locating about 1822, and residents of the township the remainder of their days. She was born in Vermont Oct. 6, 1803. They have had six children—Azubah Botsford, living in Missouri; Louisa, deceased; Emeline, the wife of Dr. Albertson, of Remson's Corners; Caroline Wilcox, living in Brunswick Township; Melissa Arnold, deceased; Henry, deceased, he enlisted in Co. I, 193 O. V. I., and was in the service

three years. He was married to Miss Ella Amerman, and at the time of his death farming the old homestead. Mr. McCloud has aided liberally every act of enterprise and charity within his reach. He was one of the first temperance advocates in the township, and has been an efficient worker in reforms of all kinds. At one period he withdrew from his church on account of the opposition to free thought and speech, and erected a church of his own, which he christened the "Church of Liberty," on the spot now known as Liberty Hill. He has been a local preacher, and preached as many as two hundred funeral sermons, uniting in marriage about one hundred couples. For thirty years, he was an agent of the underground railroad, being one of the first men engaged in the purpose of aiding slaves to escape, and continuing until the emancipation proclamation. He paid out in this worthy manner several thousands of dollars, and considers it well spent. Many grateful souls, once slaves, send him from time to time worthy expressions of their gratitude. He is universally respected and esteemed.

PAGE MOON; P. O. Granger. This gentleman was born in Granger Township, this county, Sept. 10, 1842; he is the son of Moses Moon, who was born in Brandon, Vt., May 27, 1803. He was married to Miss Dorcas Page Nov. 5, 1835, a native of the Green Mountain State, where she was born Feb. 16, 1803. A few months after their marriage, they came to this county and purchased the farm now owned by their son Page. They were the parents of four children, viz.: Martha, Harriet, Maria and Page. Mr. Moon was a stone-cutter by trade, but, after his marriage, he for the most part followed farming. He was a quiet, unassuming man, never aspiring to any prominence, but devoting his entire time to the improvement of his farm and to making his home comfortable and pleasant. He was a strong anti-slavery man, and intimately connected with the "underground railroad" of Northern Ohio. He died Oct. 5, 1879, his wife Oct. 31, 1863. Page Moon was raised upon a farm and received the benefit of a common-school education. He was united in marriage to Miss Parthenia Willits, a native of Sharon Township, this county. By this marriage there were two children, viz.: Dora M. and Frank P. Mrs. Moon died Feb. 22, 1872. Mr. Moon's second wife was Miss Alice Barnett, to whom he was married Feb.





12. 1874. This lady was born in Summit Co., Ohio, Dec. 11, 1847. From this union there are two children, viz.: Lena D. and Mark H. Mr. Moon owns 94 acres of good tillable land. He is a Republican in politics, and one of the county's most enterprising citizens.

JONATHAN MUSSER, farmer; P. O. Remson's Corners; is a son of David and Mary (Reed) Musser, natives of Pennsylvania and pioneers of Trumbull Co., Ohio; they subsequently removed to Norton—which was at that time in Medina Co.—where they resided the remainder of their lives; his decease occurred June 11, 1868, and his wife's Feb. 22, 1852. Jonathan was born in Trumbull Co. March 22, 1822; he remained with his parents until he was 23 years of age. He was united in marriage, March 13, 1845, to Miss Sophia Randall, who was a daughter of Isaac and Patience (Hill) Randall; her father was a native of Vermont, and her mother of Connecticut. She was born in New York May 27, 1826, and came with her parents when they removed to Ohio in 1834; they located in Norton, now Summit Co., where they resided for a number of years; her mother died in Norton in 1836; her father subsequently returned to New York State, where he died in 1859. Mr. and Mrs. Musser have but one child—Ellen, born Jan. 20, 1849. She was married in November, 1875, to William H. Hanson; they reside in Wadsworth Township. With the exception of one year, Mr. Musser has been a resident of Granger Township since April, 1851, when he purchased the farm where he now resides. He has 58 acres of fine improved land located on the northern township line. Since his residence in the township, has served as Trustee, and has taken, in former years, an active interest in schools. Mr. and Mrs. Musser are both members of the Disciples' Church of Hinckley. They are genial and hospitable in their manners, and in the community in which they reside are esteemed members of society.

NATHANIEL PIERCE, Granger. This gentleman was born in Rensselaer Co., N. Y., July 22, 1813; he is the son of George and Lydia (O'Brien) Pierce. The father was a native of Rhode Island, but when he was a child his parents removed to New York, where they had a large tract of land. While here working to clear up his farm, the father was killed by a falling tree. There were two children in the family at the time of his death—George and

Polly. George was married in Rensselaer Co., and resided there during his lifetime. He was a prominent and much-esteemed man and was the Recorder of Rensselaer County for a number of years; besides this he held other civil and military positions—he having been a soldier of the war of 1812; he was the parent of nine children, Nathaniel being the only one now living. Nathaniel was raised on a farm, and his education is such as could be obtained in the common schools of that day. When about 16 years of age he purchased four stands of bees. By care and attention these so increased that, in a few years, he had become quite noted as a bee-raiser. During his entire life, when circumstances permitted, he has handled bees, and the same degree of success has always attended his efforts; he has also been a very successful wool-grower. At 22 years of age he had obtained by his own exertions about 400 head of sheep. In 1834, he came to Ohio, and traveled over a considerable portion of the State, when he returned to his native State. In 1837, he again came to Ohio, bringing with him a number of fine sheep which he readily disposed of in Licking Co., where he had stopped; he remained in this county some time, being variously employed; he was for the period of three years employed by an Eastern company to purchase wool for them. During this time he traveled over great portions of the State and purchased large quantities of wool. In 1840, he came to this county, and, on the 28th of October, the following year, was united in marriage with Miss Harriet Spencer, a native of Granger Township, where she was born Oct. 1, 1821. She was the only child of Thomas and Hannah (Phelps) Spencer, both of whom were natives of Connecticut, from which State they moved to Ontario Co., N. Y. They were married in Ontario Co., and removed from there to this county in 1818, which they ever afterward made their home. Mr. Spencer was a man whom every one respected and looked up to, and in his lifetime did much to advance the religious and educational interests of Granger Township. Mr. and Mrs. Pierce now own and reside upon the old Spencer homestead, which consists of 127 acres of well-improved land. They are the parents of two sons—George S. and Jeffrie S. Mr. Pierce is liberal in his views; his rule has ever been to support men and measures, and not parties; he acts inde-



pendent of sects and denominations, and has always endeavored to throw his influence in whatever direction he thought it would accomplish the most good.

HENRY M. REID, farmer; P. O. Remson's Corners; is a native of Granger Township, where he was born in 1834. His father was Harris Reid, a native of Connecticut, born in 1795; his mother was Sally Spencer. She was born in Canandaigua, N. Y., in 1800. They were married in Canandaigua, and came to Ohio about 1828, first locating near Sandusky, where they remained about three years. They then removed to Granger Township, and were residents of the township for many years. His father's death occurred in March, 1866; his mother is still living with a daughter in Hinckley Township. Our subject's early life was passed upon his father's farm. He was married to Miss Persis Treeman April 15, 1857. She was born Dec. 28, 1834, and is a daughter of John M. and Betsey (Hatch) Treeman, old residents of Granger Township. He was born in Canandaigua, N. Y., July 12, 1811, and came with his parents to Granger in 1818. She was a native of Berkshire Co., Mass., where she was born Dec. 24, 1811, and came with her parents to Granger Township in 1833. They were married in Granger, and first located on a farm on the Granger and Medina Road, where they resided for fourteen years. They then removed to the Remson Tract, where Mr. Treeman first purchased 104 acres, and afterward added to the original purchase until he had 210 at the time of his death, which occurred April 23, 1875. His wife still resides upon the old homestead with her daughter Persis. After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Reid remained in Granger Township about nine years, then removed to Michigan. After a residence of four years there, they returned to Granger Township, where they have since resided. In 1878, they removed to her mother's farm, and have been located there up to the present time. They have two children—Lynn L. and Frank L.

JACOB SPELLMAN, blacksmith, Remson's Corners; is a native of Greene Co., Penn., where he was born in 1825. His father, Charles Spellman, was a native of Pennsylvania; his mother, Jane Wells, was born in Summit Co., Ohio. They were married in Ohio, and removed to Pennsylvania, where Jacob was born. In 1834, they returned to Ohio and located in

Wadsworth Township, where they resided for nearly twenty years; then removed to Montville Township, where they were residents until their decease. His father's death occurred in October, 1877, aged 95 years; his mother's in October, 1868. Jacob, at the age of 18, began to learn the blacksmith's trade with his brother Joseph at Wadsworth. He remained with his brother three years, and then went to Bedford, where he worked at his trade for one year; thence to Montville for one year, and, in 1848, located in Remson's Corners, where he has since been engaged at his trade. He was united in marriage, in June, 1850, to Miss Mary Wiard. She was born in New York in 1829. Her father's name was John; her mother's maiden name was Julia French. They came to Granger Township in 1847. John died in October, 1867; his wife still resides at Remson's Corners. Mr. and Mrs. Spellman have five children—Laura, now the wife of A. Crooks; they reside in Remson's Corners; John, born July 8, 1854; he was married to Miss Sarah E. Bradley March 17, 1878; she is a native of Canada, where she was born Sept. 12, 1857. John entered the store of Isaac Whitman, at Remson's Corners, in 1872, and has been engaged there since. He is a popular and obliging clerk, and has added considerable to the large trade now enjoyed by Mr. Whitman. Anson is married to Miss Leonora Straight, and is a resident of the township; Lucia and William are at home. Mr. Spellman is one of Granger's most esteemed citizens. He has served as Constable about fifteen years. In 1862, he enlisted in the 1st Ohio Sharpshooters, and served until the close of the war. As a neighbor, he is kind and obliging, hospitable in every sense of the word, and well worthy of the respect awarded him by his fellow-townsmen.

FAIRFAX R. SMITH, farmer; Remson's Corners; was born in Madison Co., N. Y., Dec. 10, 1812; he is the son of Fairfax and Abigail (Thayer) Smith, old residents of Montville Township; his father was a native of Massachusetts, and his mother of New York, and were located in Madison Co., previous to their removal to Ohio. Our subject worked upon the farm in Madison Co. until he was 20 years of age. His father, about this time, desired to come to Ohio, which he did, and bought 260 acres of woodland in Montville Township in the year 1833; returning to New York State





he sent out Fairfax R., to clear the land; the family did not remove until the following spring, in 1834; his parents were residents of the township from that time up to their decease, his father's death occurring in 1848, and his mother's about five years subsequent. Our subject, Fairfax R., worked at home upon the farm for three years after he became of age; he then bought 50 acres of new land, which he cleared, and then disposed of it. In February, 1848, he removed to Granger Township, purchasing 80 acres of land near Remson's Corners, where he at present resides; he has added about 42 acres to the original purchase, making a total of 122 acres, about 40 of which is timbered land; he was married Dec. 10, 1835, in Montville Township, to Miss Desdemona Wilbur, a daughter of Smith and Nancy (Falkner) Wilbur, early settlers of Montville Township; she was born in Wayne Co., N. Y., in 1818; her father was a native of Massachusetts, and her mother of Rhode Island; they removed from New York to Ohio, locating in Montville in the spring of 1834; her father died in 1861, while on a visit to Michigan, and her mother August, 1876, at the home of her brother, O. F. Wilbur, in Granger Township. Mr. and Mrs. Smith have four children living—Halsey R., married to Miss Nancy Crumb, of Hinckley Township, now living in Nebraska, farming; Fairfax W., married to Josephine Simmons, they are living in Granger Township; Polly E., married to John W. King, and living in Nebraska, and Ella V., living at home; a son of Francis B., died at the age of 21 in Granger Township.

FRANKLIN SYLVESTER, P. O. Granger. Francis Sylvester, father of the above gentleman, was born Nov. 7, 1798, at Kinderhook (now called Stuyvesant), N. Y. He was the eldest of a family of six children, and, at the death of his father, when he was 12 years of age, he went to live with his grandparents, with whom he remained until 18 years of age, at which time he began learning the wagon-maker's trade, with Mr. Jason Clapp, of Pittsfield, N. Y. He was united in marriage with Miss Cynthia Hateh, in 1822, at Barrington, N. Y. He continued to work at his trade in his native State until 1833, when he removed to Granger Township, this county, where he ever afterward resided, working at his trade. He was a man of much more than ordinary intelligence and information, noted for his great conversational

powers, kindness of heart, and social qualities. He departed this life May 10, 1878; his wife survives him, and is a resident of Granger Township. They were the parents of seven children, all of whom are now living, the oldest being 56, and the youngest 40 years of age. This family of Sylvesters are descended from a gentleman of that name who came from Holland to America previous to the war of the Revolution, and located in New York. He afterward became a Judge in the "Empire" State, and was well and favorably known throughout the Eastern and New England States. Franklin Sylvester was born in Bristol, Ontario Co., N. Y., March 28, 1831. The limited means of his parents and the disadvantages of those early days afforded but a limited education in early life. He began when about 10 years of age to work for the farmers of the neighborhood in which he resided, eagerly accepting any honorable business that promised a reasonable compensation, and carefully hoarding up his hard-earned wages. He was always fond of the horse, and, when yet quite a boy, by trading in sheep and cattle, which he had bought with his earnings, found himself the possessor of a fine young horse. He kept on trading and working by the month and day until after he had reached his majority. At 25 years of age, we find him the possessor of the snug little sum of \$3,000, which he had accumulated by his own exertions. About this time, he and Mr. R. N. Hickox embarked in the mercantile business in the township, also ran an ashery and dealt quite largely in live stock. He was united in marriage with Miss Eunice M. Reid Oct. 4, 1857. This lady was born in Granger Township, this county, Aug. 4, 1839. She is the daughter of Harris and Sally (Spencer) Reid, who came to the township in a very early day. Since his marriage, Mr. Sylvester has for most part been engaged in real estate transactions, and raising and shipping live stock. For some years past he has paid considerable attention to the raising and breeding of short-horn cattle. His two-year-old bull, "Buckeye State," is one of the best in Northern Ohio; his short-horn heifer, "Cora Smith, 2d," is a calf of "Cora Smith, 1st," who sold in Kentucky, when 8 months old, for \$4,000. He has others of this well-known breed, all of them being registered in the American Herd Book, where full descriptions of them can be obtained. Mr. Sylvester is deserving of great



credit for his endeavors to better the grade of cattle in Granger and adjoining townships. He is a man of broad and liberal views, opposing everything known to be wrong, and favoring everything known to be right. He is, in the fullest sense of the term, a self-made man, and his career has been one of signal success—the elements of which are found in an excellent judgment, a remarkable business tact, an indomitable energy and perseverance, a strict integrity in dealing, and a power (which few men possess) of keeping his own counsels. Through all his pecuniary prosperity, it is but simple justice to say he has been notably magnanimous in the use of a wealth that a propitious Providence has thrown into his hands. His donations for educational, religious and other charitable purposes have been very considerable; nor have they been confined to Granger Township alone; many of them are yet unknown in the community in which he resides. He owns over 500 acres of well-improved land in Granger Township, and 160 acres in Kansas, which he has obtained by close attention to business, combined with economy and industry.

THOMAS H. SYLVESTER, farmer; P. O. Remson's Corners; is a native of Granger Township, and was born July 28, 1833; he is a son of Francis and Cynthia (Hatch) Sylvester, who are mentioned more prominently in other portions of this work. Thomas, at the age of 16, commenced learning the blacksmith's trade, and after three years' apprenticeship, engaged in the business for himself in Granger Township, where he continued for about fifteen years; he then turned his attention to agricultural pursuits, first renting a farm for two years, and then purchasing one on the Granger road, where he resided for four years. In April, 1873, he purchased the farm located about one-half mile east of Remson's Corners, where he still resides; he has 103 acres of land, about 25 of which is timber; his marriage to Miss Nancy Hatch occurred Feb. 13, 1859; she is a daughter of Hoel and Saloma Hatch, who also are mentioned more fully in other parts of the work. Nancy was born in Granger Township April 18, 1839. Their children are as follows: Grove E., Addie M., Fred E., Edith A. Although young in years, Mr. Sylvester is a prominent and respected citizen of the township.

EDWARD TRIFFIT, farmer; P. O. Remson's Corners; was born in Geneva, N. Y., in 1820; his

parents were Richard and Sarah (Carnaby) Triffit, both natives of England. Richard was born in Leeds in 1774; his wife in Yorkshire Oct. 10, 1784; they were married in England and came to America in 1818, being eight weeks on the passage; they first settled in Geneva, N. Y., and from there removed to Castile, Genesee Co., where they resided about seven years; they then removed to Bath Township, now in Summit Co., residing there until his death, June 22, 1838; his wife survived him until Nov. 30, 1875, when she died, aged 91 years. They had ten children, seven of whom were buried in England. James, a son born in England and a resident of Bath Township, died about 1863, leaving a wife and one child; Mary, married to Chester Bills and residing in Michigan, died about 1854; Edward is now the only living child; at 19 years of age, he left home and went to learn the carpenter and joiner's trade, which occupation he followed for a number of years in Hudson, Akron and Cleveland. When the land comprising the Remson Tract, in Granger Township, was offered for sale, he purchased 50 acres located on the northern township line, where he now resides; he was married Nov. 18, 1845, to Miss Elizabeth A. Miller, and in August, 1846, removed upon his farm, where he has since resided; his wife died July 17, 1850, leaving one child, Sarah A., born Nov. 25, 1847, died July 28, 1849; he was united in marriage to a second wife, Miss Elsie J. Hatch, Aug. 27, 1851; she was born March 31, 1828, in Granger Township; her parents, Simeon and Bethiah (Taylor) Hatch, were natives of New York and pioneers of Granger Township, locating there about 1824. Their union has been blessed with two children—Amelia A., born Feb. 27, 1853, the wife of F. A. Woodruff, who has one child, Ernest; Lauretta B., born Oct. 7, 1860. Mr. Triffit has now 70 acres of improved land all under good cultivation, and adorned with neat outbuildings and a pleasant and elegant residence. He is a prosperous and industrious farmer and an honorable, upright citizen. He and his wife are members of the M. E. Church of Granger.

ISAAC WHITMAN, Postmaster and merchant, Remson's Corners; one of the most prominent business men of Granger Township, is the subject of this sketch. He is a native of Massachusetts; was born Oct. 17, 1834. His parents,





Isaac and Hannah (Parker) Whitman, were also natives of Massachusetts. They came to Medina Co. in 1842, and first located in Chatham Township, remaining there eleven years; then moved to Granger Township, where they made their homes up to their deaths. His father's death occurred March 22, 1861, and his mother's March 1, 1863. Previous to engaging in the mercantile trade, Isaac, in partnership with his brother Alden, operated a saw-mill in Granger Township for twelve years; they then disposed of the mill property, and bought out the store of French & Boughten, of Remson's Corners. They continued in partnership for eight years, and then Alden sold his share to his brother and removed to Chatham Township, where he is now engaged in farming. Since that time, Isaac has continued in trade alone. His stock consists of a general line of merchandise, embracing dry goods, groceries, boots, shoes, hardware, etc. He has been Postmaster since 1869. As a merchant, Mr. Whitman is deservedly popular, being in his manner genial, obliging and courteous. As a citizen, he ranks as one of the most enterprising and public-spirited, an obliging neighbor, and a useful and honorable member of society. He was united in marriage, Dec. 1, 1858, to Miss Susan A. Perin. She was born in Hinckley Township Dec. 24, 1839. Her father, Orrin Perin, was a native of Massachusetts. Her mother, Elizabeth Willey, a native of Vermont. They were married in Monroe Co., N. Y., and came to Ohio in 1833, first locating in Granger Township, remaining there but one year; thence to Hinckley Township, where they resided until 1865. They then removed to McLean Co., Ill., and, in 1875, to Ford Co., where her father died in April, 1880. Her mother is now living with her children in Granger Township. Mr. and Mrs. Perin's children were as follows: Asa D., now living in Kansas; he served three years in the 5th Kansas Cavalry; Reuben W., enlisted in the 36th Ill. V. I., and served nearly three years, when he was killed at Chickamauga; Charles H., enlisted in the 5th Kansas Cavalry, and was in the service nearly three years. He was killed at Pine Bluff, Ark., while in service; Susan A.; Orrin O.; he served nearly a year in the 178th O. V. I.; he is now living in Hinckley Township; Mary A. Thompson, living in Kansas; Eliza F. Sprague, living in Nebraska; Heman L., living in Granger; Cora T. Rankin, living in Illinois,

and Clara E. Lewis, living in Kansas. Mr. and Mrs. Whitman's children are as follows: Jessie E., born Nov. 4, 1861, died March 3, 1863; Earnest W., July 12, 1863; Arthur I., born Sept. 27, 1868, and Cora E., Dec. 7, 1874; died Sept. 23, 1876. Mr. Whitman has a sister living in Granger Township—Harriet N. Raw. He has served the township as Treasurer about five years, and in educational matters has always taken an active interest.

GEORGE WORDEN, farmer; P. O. Weymouth. Is a son of Zara and Sally (Frisbee) Worden, who were natives of Connecticut, and early settlers in Medina Co. They first located in Liverpool Township, where George was born in June, 1822. When he was about a year old, his parents removed back to Connecticut and remained there about three years; then, tired of the rocks and hills of Connecticut, they returned to Liverpool Township, where they resided for a number of years. Subsequently, they removed to Lorain Co., and then to Weymouth, Medina Co., where they both departed this life. George remained with his parents until he was 24 years old; he then came to Granger Township, and took up 112 acres of timbered land, which he has since cleared and improved with fences, buildings, etc., and where he has resided up to the present writing. He was married, Aug. 23, 1852, to Miss Mary A. Clark; she was a daughter of Phineas and Saloma (Brown) Clark, natives of New York, and pioneers of Brunswick Township, coming there as early as 1817, and residents of the township up to 1864, when Phineas died and his wife removed to Weymouth, Medina Township, where she died in 1875. Mary was born in Brunswick in 1834; she has a sister, Jane Wallace, living in Weymouth. Mr. and Mrs. Worden had but one child—William S.—who is now living at home. They are both members of the Methodist Church. The children of Zara and Sally Worden, now living, are as follows: Nathan, now a resident of Henry Co.; George, the subject of this sketch; Joseph, living in Medina; Sally Ann, residing in Medina; Caroline Upson, living in Medina, and Thomas, now living in Medina.

S. P. WOLCOTT, Granger. This gentleman was born in Middlesex, Washington Co., Vt., Sept. 25, 1804. He is the son of Joseph and Lucy (Hills) Wolcott, both natives of East Windsor, Conn., where they were married and



resided till the latter part of the eighteenth century, when they removed to the birthplace of their son S. P. They remained in the Green Mountain State until 1816, and then removed to Ontario Co., N. Y. In the fall of 1820, they came to this county and located in Granger Township. They were the parents of seven children, four of whom are now living. Mr. Wolcott was the Captain of a company, and served his country with distinction during the war of the Revolution. Three of his brothers were also in this war. He died in 1866, at the advanced age of 91 years. His wife died in 1855. S. P. Wolcott was raised upon a farm, receiving but a limited education. He worked for his father until of age, and contributed no little toward caring for the family. He was frugal and industrious, and as fast as he earned money he invested it in land. In 1828, he returned to Ontario Co., N. Y., where he found employment as a farm laborer for two years. During this time he had saved enough money to finish

paying for the land he had purchased. He was united in marriage to Miss Nancy W. Coddington Sept. 20, 1835. She was born in Bristol, Ontario Co., N. Y., Feb. 13, 1814. From this union there were sixteen children—Fernando, Alzina M., Horace, Sarah J., Harriet C., Chester, Clayton C., Clayton, Cornelius, Cornelia, Samuel M., Alice A., Frank L., Mary L., Amelia C. and Ida M. Horace, Chester and Clayton were in the late war. After the war, Horace entered the employment of the Government and went overland to the Pacific coast. On his return to the East he took a trip South, since which time he has never been heard of by the family. Mr. Wolcott began life as a poor boy, and is, in the fullest sense of the word, a self-made man. Although too old to work he still has charge of his farm, which is one of the best improved in Granger Township. He is an intelligent, enterprising gentleman, a jovial companion and one of the county's best citizens. In politics, he is a Republican of the stalwart kind.

### HOMER TOWNSHIP.

ROBERT LEE, farmer; P. O. Albion, Wayne Co.; was born in the latter county Jan. 23, 1833, and was married, Oct. 9, 1856, to Miss Maranda R. Tanner, who was born July 19, 1839. Their children were named Sarah J., born Oct. 4, 1857; Rosa M., April 19, 1859, died Feb. 26, 1862; Cora B., Jan. 15, 1865; Lillie G., Jan. 26, 1877; Sarah J., now Mrs. Aaron Swartz, married Dec. 6, 1877; they have one child—Lucius L. Swartz, born Jan. 31, 1879. Mr. Lee went to California in 1852, during the gold fever excitement, taking the overland route and traveling in the saddle or with the wagon train. It took them three months to make the trip, halting a week at Salt Lake City to recruit their teams. They were threatened on the way by Indians, who were probably more in search of plunder than a fight. At this time, they were joined by another train, and, by coralling their teams and protecting themselves as best they could, they passed a very disagreeable night, waiting for the expected attack. Morning came, and they were left to pursue their way unmolested, with the exception of losing some of their stock.

They entered the Golden State at Hangtown, now called Placerville. He worked in the mines in various parts of the State, remaining there three years, coming home via the Nicaragua route, landing safely in New York, and arriving home by way of Cleveland. Mr. Lee has been living in Homer Township for twenty-four years, on what used to be called the Albion farm of 80 acres, but has made additions from time to time, until now he owns 181 acres of good land, making a farm of which he may well be proud, as he is pleasantly situated and surrounded with home comforts of no ordinary degree. His father, Josiah Lee, living in Albion, Wayne Co., was born in the State of Connecticut, Thompson Township, Oct. 14, 1796, and moved to the State of New York with his father in 1798. He married Miss Agnes Lafler Nov. 3, 1816, and came to this State in 1819, settling in Jackson Township. There were no improvements on the land he entered, and no roads but as they cleared them between here and Cleveland, coming by way of Medina, which then could boast of one solitary log house and another in process of construction.





Before they reached the future county seat, it grew quite dark and threatened rain. Turning the oxen loose to browse in the slashing, they sought the log house for shelter, but were lost in the darkness of the stormy night. Their loud halloos were finally heard, and they were kindly taken in and cared for by the pioneer's family. They reached Wayne Co. in due time, and entered 320 acres of land, at \$2 per acre. Mr. John Mason, three-fourths of a mile east, was their only neighbor, and Wooster the nearest post office. Their children were John H., born March 14, 1818, died Aug. 17, 1822; Phoebe, Nov. 24, 1819, died Aug. 11, 1822; James, April 30, 1822; Josiah, July 2, 1824, died Aug. 20, 1851; Elizabeth, March 23, 1826; Jacob, July 12, 1828, died Oct. 23, 1853; David B., Oct. 21, 1830; Robert, Jan. 23, 1833; Oliver, Jan. 9, 1836; Lucene, Feb. 7, 1839 (now Mrs. G. M. Reed); Elizabeth married Mr. P. C. Bunt; George, July 14, 1841,

died Dec. 15, 1854. Mrs. Agnes Lee died April 8, 1860, and on Jan. 26, 1868. Mr. Lee married Phoebe Smith. They had one child—Jessie, born Dec. 6, 1869; she died March 2, 1878. Three of the brothers were in the army during the war of the rebellion. David enlisted in Co. B, 4th O. V. C., and served in the Army of the Potomac until the battle of Gettysburg, where he was wounded in the right hand. Soon after, he was honorably discharged from the service, but, upon the wound healing, he again enlisted in the 178th O. V. I., and served to the end of the war, participating in the great battle of Murfreesboro and many skirmishes between Nashville and the front. James enlisted in Co. K, 102d O. V. I., and served for three years. Oliver enlisted in the same regiment and company (Capt. J. M. Sloan's), and was in the battles of Decatur, Ala., Stevenson, Perryville, Frankfort, etc.





## ADDENDUM.

JUDGE SAMUEL HUMPHREVILLE, Medina, Ohio, died of apoplexy, Feb. 4, 1881. The following tribute to his memory is taken from the *Medina Democrat* of Feb. 10, 1881: "Our community was greatly shocked on Friday morning last to learn of the sudden death from apoplexy of ex-Judge Humphreville, an old and respected citizen of Medina, whose demise occurred about 10 o'clock, at the office of the *Gazette* newspaper. The judge, after breakfast, as was his custom, came down town and visited the *Gazette* office to look after some job printing that had been ordered, and while there in conversation with Mr. Green, he suddenly fell back in his chair, gasped a few times, and expired. The judge, we are informed, had been in his usual health, with the exception of a slight headache which had annoyed him for a few days, and though 73 years of age, had the appearance of good health and promise of a longer lease of life than was allotted him. The deceased was born and bred in Berkshire Co., Mass.; from there he came to Medina, about forty years ago, and engaged in the practice of law. He represented Medina Co. in the Constitutional Convention which framed the Constitution of 1851. Next, he was elected Judge of the Court of Common Pleas for this district, going on the bench in February, 1852, and serving a term of five years, he being the first

Judge elected in this district after the adoption of the present Constitution, whence the code practice of law dates. Prior to about the year 1850, Mr. Humphreville was a Democrat, and was elected to the above-mentioned offices by his Democratic constituents, among whom he was a leader. But when the rebellion of the Slave States became inevitable, he joined the Republican party, and as a member of that party represented this Senatorial district in the General Assembly of Ohio for the period of three years, beginning in 1862. He was next elected a member of the third Constitutional Convention, which met in May, 1873. For some years, he has been a member of the Board of School Examiners for this county, and, at the time of his death, was at the *Gazette* office for the purpose of getting some examination cards printed. He spent considerable time during the past few months in writing a history of the bar of Medina Co., which he finished about two weeks ago, and which will appear in the forthcoming county history. Throughout his whole life, he has been a faithful and persistent worker. As a public officer, he faithfully discharged his trust; as a lawyer he was honest and upright and an honor to his profession, and as a neighbor and citizen he was always genial and kind to all, and a man in the true sense of the word."

















